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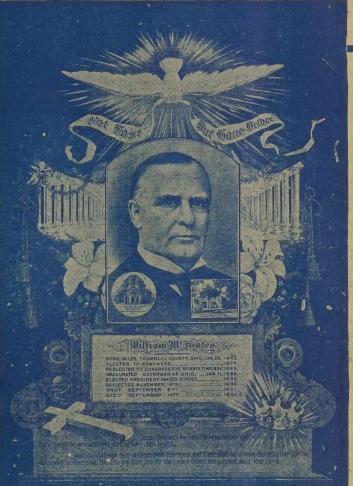






McKinley Memorial Picture

SIZE 16 x 20 Inches



E wish to draw your attention to our New Mc-Kinley Memorial Picture of which we show an illustration. No words can describe its beauty. Most Memorial Pictures are so somber that they cast a gloom over anyone who looks at them. This picture is not gloomy, but is printed in appropriate and beautiful style. At the top of the picture is a representation of a pure white dove with extended wings. Beneath it are the words engraved in most beautiful type upon a background of pure white "Not Lost, but Gone Before." In the center is a picture of the late President, William McKinley, taken from one of his most recent photographs. On either side and in the distance are represented the courts of the heavenly Jerusalem. The innumerable columns of white marble seem to extend into Infinite Space, giving a faint idea of the immensity of that beautiful golden city. The angels and arch-angels can be seen flying thither and

hither and sounding their trumpets. Little innocent children are there and all is white, pure and holy. Beneath is a collection of charming flowers, white roses, lilies, etc. Underneath is a printed tablet giving name, date of birth, assassination, death, and other particulars of our late lamented President. On one side is a cross, which the departed christian has laid down, and on the other side is the crown which the departed christian will wear in triumph in that beautiful city where there will be no more crosses nor suffering, and no more tears or parting. Underneath all is a marble slab with several quotations from Holy Scripture.

Elsewhere are scattered about this picture many other beautiful features, forget-me-nots, drapery, etc. This beautiful picture should find a place in every home. No expense has been spared on its production. They were made originally to sell at 50 cents each, but as a special inducement to agents to handle large quantities we will supply them at 20 cents each; 4 for 50 cents, 10 for \$1.00, postpaid. Heautiful frames \$1.00 each, including glass and back, moulding nearly 4 inches wide. Safe delivery guaranteed. Address descriptions of the production of the same production of the same production.

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JAMES VICK Founder and First Editor

VICK'S FAMILY MAGAZINE

VOL. XXV.

FEBRUARY 1902

NO. 12

A FEW GOOD BEGONIAS.

The different varieties of Begonias adapt themiselves so gracefully and graciously to seemingly adverse conditions, that we have come to consider them among the most satisfactory plants for window culture. They will grow in the sun and in the shade; will flourish luxuriantly and give quantities of blossoms when conditions are favorable, and at least make a pretty show of foliage when the conditions are so unfavorable that it is impos-

sible for the plants to bloom. For ordinary window culture there is no plant like them. They can be grown to great perfection with comparatively little care or attention; they are free from insect pests, and though they will do best in a sunny situation, they will succeed very well in any light window where a temperature of about 60° can be maintained. Indeed, for cultivating in windows, where but a limited amount of sunshine can be obtained, they often prove a constant delight, succeeding where other plants fail.

The free-blooming varieties make beautiful specimen plants. The graceful, drooping panicles of bloom range in the different varieties from pure white on through pink, rose, salmon, carmine and deep crimson, with such pretty shades and tints and such profusion of bloom that it is difficult to make a selection when one visits a greenhouse where a great variety is grown. The quantity of blossoms which some varieties will produce is surprising, and the length of time which they will remain in bloom is equally so. Some kinds bloom most profusely in winter and others in summer, so that, by proper selection, one may have blossoms at all times of year. They make very pretty plants for the veranda in summer, and a plant-stand filled with an assortment varying in color and foliage is very

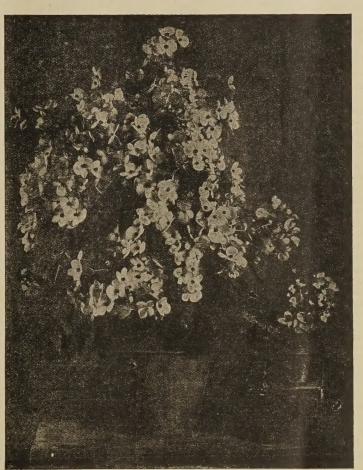
Begonias in general will grow in almost any good soil, but they succeed best in soil composed mostly of leafmold and sand mixed with a little well-decomposed cow manure.

New varieties are constantly being offered, but cone can, in my opinion, entirely supersede some of the old ones.

Begonia rubra is an ideal house plant. It has very attractive dark green foliage and drooping clusters of deep coral-red flowers. It is a perpetual bloomer, growing and blossoming summer and winter, year after year, and never showing any desire to rest. It is a strong grower, often reaching six or eight feet, and as the branches

when young are very brittle, it is necessary to give it a strong support. The flower stems are long and drooping, much branched, and each little subdivision of the stem bears several blossoms, making a large cluster of very persistent blooms. Taking it all in all, it is one of the very best Begonias for house culture.

Another of the old varieties that still retains its popularity, is Begonia semperflorens gigantea rosea. The flowers are rosy-red and produced in large



BEGONIA GLOIRE DE LORRAINE.

clusters. The leaves are large, of a rich, glossy green. A ring of red encircles the petiole at the base of the leaf, making the plant attractive even when not in bloom. It is, however, a most persistent bloomer, rarely being without flowers.

Begonia incarnata is one of the old, old sorts, but for ease of culture and freedom of bloom it is still unsurpassed. You may not find it in the catalogues now, but most florists keep it in stock, especially for Christmas and Easter, as it blooms

so freely that it is always attractive. The leaves are rather small, sharp-pointed and glossy; the flowers are of medium size, bright pink, and produced so abundantly that the plant is covered with bloom. When through blossoming in the spring, the plant should be cut back; it will then make a strong new growth and be ready for winter blooming. Variety grandiflora is considered an improvement on the original, as it has larger flowers.

Although Begonia Gloire de Lorraine was in-

troduced in 1892, it is not as yet very generally cultivated. Last year there were not many plants in market and they were held at a high price. This year they are more plentiful, but prices are still high. It is a superb variety. The flowers are a beautiful rose color, pendulous in habit, and so profusely borne that the plant seems a mass of bloom, almost without foliage. The beautiful blossoms light up well in the evening, being particularly attractive under artificial light, making the plant very effective for room and table decoration. The plants begin to blossom when only a few inches highwhen even smaller than the smallest one shown in our illustration which was only two months old-and keep on and on through all the winter, until March or April, the large, drooping panicles remaining on the plant for weeks. Anything more charming than a plant of Gloire de Lorraine in full bloom would be difficult to im-

Paul Bruant is another good Begonia for house culture. It bears large panicles of light rose-colored flowers. The leaves are fancifully crinkled and scalloped, bronzy green in color with red stems.

Some varieties of Begonias make good window plants on account of their beautiful foliage, even when they do not bloom. Argenteo guttata is a fine variety with olive-green leaves shaded with bronze and handsomely marked with silvery spots and dashes. The flowers are white tinged with pink and borne in large clusters. It makes a sturdy growth and is good for window culture.

Metallica is always beautiful, either in bloom or out. It has dark green leaves of metallic or bronze color, heavily veined and shaded below with dark red, giving it a velvety appearance. When grown where the light shows through the leaves, the effect is very pretty. The buds are dark pink, almost red before opening; the flowers are blush white. If you have been seeking plants which will flourish in a sitting room with ordinary care, try some Begonias.

Florence Beckwith.

SOME COLONIAL GARDENS.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine,)

The love of flowers and gardening early manifested itself among the first settlers of this country, although owing to the rigors of the new climate and the dangers and difficulties of settlement in a savage land, they had little chance to gratify this love for many years.

In the beginning of all things for New England—the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth in 1620—they had their hands too full of sickness and death to have time for horticulture, but as time went on their love for flowers and gardens manifested itself, and we find them sending to England for seeds, plants, trees, etc.

We must always remember that the Pilgrims, although they came to us from Holland, were English to the heart's core, and had the true English love for green fields and growing things.

We get occasional glimpses of these gardens in letters published in the biographies of the time, and in the charming novels of dear old Plymouth by Mrs. Austin. Of course these gardens were very practical, for they were a practical people, but we can fancy the comfort the dear old Pilgrim mothers took in their few English flowers.

The richer colonists of Massachusetts Bay had fewer perils and difficulties to overcome, and could sooner turn their attention to gardening. When they had time to spare from their religious quarrels, and banishments resulting therefrom, their Indian wars and hanging of Quakers and witches, they worked in their gardens.

How we should like to see one of those quaint old gardens now of which we get glimpses "o'er the sands of time" in Mrs. Earle's books, and other charming works on Old New England. As time went on and the colonists became wealthy, many beautiful gardens were laid out, especially by Boston's merchant princes, both at their town homes and country seats.

Perhaps the most notable of these, and certainly the most interesting, was that of Sir Harry Frankland at his country home in Hopkinton, Mass. Here the beautiful Agnes, Marblehead's fairest daughter whose romantic history has been charmingly told by Bynner and dear old Dr. Holmes in his poem "Agnes," tended her flowers. Perhaps their beauty and purity soothed her troubled spirit and lessened the sting of her unquiet conscience. The house was built on the slope of a great hill and was very large and elegant—more like Virginia than New England. They laid out orchards of apples, pears, plums, cherries, and planted much shrubbery especially lilacs and hawthornes.

The quaint old garden was surrounded with a hedge—now ten feet high—and the remaining lilacs are eight inches in diameter.

"The box is glistening huge and green;
Like elms the lilacs grow;
Three elms high arching still are seen,
And one lies stretched below."

Holmes

Agnes and Sir Harry, after about three years spent in this beautiful home, left it for England where many unpleasant experiences awaited her. After a time they commenced travelling. In a year or so they settled in Lisbon where the crowning catastrophe of their lives overtook them. After the earthquake was over Sir Harry, in gratitude for her wonderful faithfulness and courage in saving his life, made the fair Agnes Lady Frankland. Shortly after this they returned to Boston where they set up a beautiful city home, and many happy years were spent there and at Hopkinton.

After Sir Harry's death, which occurred at Bath, England, where he had gone in hopeless search for health, Lady Frankland returned to Hopkinton where she lived until driven out of Eden by the Revolution to pine away and die in exile in London. We are told that she managed her estate with great capability, setting out trees and shrubs, and tending to her loved flowers personally.

The last royal governor of Massachusetts—the hated Hutchinson—had a beautiful garden at his country home, which he also had to leave to die an exile in England.

What I have said of Massachusetts gardens, was true in a smaller way of those of the other New England states. That old town by the sea—quaint Portsmouth—also Providence and New Haven, contained many beautiful gardens well-beloved by their owners.

The Dutch—always notable gardeners—did not leave their loved flowers behind. The fondness of the Dutchman for his garden and farm still lives in the name of the Bowery and we may be sure that when fashion thronged the "Bowery" in the days of "Walter-the Doubter," "William the Testy," and "Peter the Headstrong," it contained many quaint and beautiful gardens, copies of loved spots in the land of dikes and marshes.

The life of the rich patroons of the Hudson, after a generation or so, was ideal in its opportunities for gardening, and they possessed many beautiful gardens, perhaps the finest in the country. One of the most beautiful of these was at "The Flats," the home of the Schuylers on the west bank of the Hudson, just above Aibany, of which we get charming glimpses in Mrs. Grant's letters.

The house, built of brick, was very large, and being the home of a Dutchman, the portico or stoop was of great importance. This was vine covered, and wrens, wood sparrows, and other birds nested there. Mrs. Schuyler, Catherine the first, was wonderfully capable, and were she alive now, would be considered very much of a new woman. Despite the management of her large establishment and many outside cares, she took great pride in her garden and personally superintended its care.

The colonists of New Jersey quickly found out that fruits would grow in wonderful profusion, and letters of the early colonists describe them very enthusiastically, but being poorer than their Dutch neighbors, they had less time for ornamental gardening.

Pennsylvania, the colony of Penn, was very cosmopolitan in its make-up. Although less aristocratic than the Southerners, the people soon became very prosperous. Penn's ideal in founding Philadelphia, was a green country town, like those of old England. It was laid out on a generous plan, and many of the large brick houses were surrounded by beautiful gardens. The country homes of the rich merchants (of which Woodlands, Mount Pleasant, Stenten, and historic Cliveden the home of the Clews are surviving examples) were surrounded by beautiful grounds and gardens, laid out in landscape fashion, in a style excelling anything else in the colonies. The houses were of the best colonial type, after the school of Sir Christopher Wren, and it is indeed sad that so few are left to us.

The Puritan and Catholic in Maryland, copied Virginia on a smaller scale. Doubtless quaint old St. Mary's contained many loved gardens, and in later and more prosperous days Annapolis became a city of magnificent homes, many of which had terraced grounds and gardens reaching to the river.

The beginnings of Virginia were much too disorderly to admit of much gardening for a long time. Doubtless the first beginnings of floriculture were made soon after the arrival of that ship load

of young women—who became the first colonial fore-mothers. In later days, when the colonists were growing rich, and built their beautiful homes, fine gardens were laid out. Westover, the Brandons, Shirley, Corotoman, Cleve, and Blenheim, possessed beautiful grounds; some of these gardens remain. They sent to England for their plants and seeds as for everything else. Mount Vernon had a notable garden, and we find many evidences in the life of Washington of his love for trees, shrubbery, and flowers. Lady Washington was also an ardent lover of flowers.

In the Carolinas and Georgia, gardening was made easy by the genial clime. In the Carolinas everything centered around Charleston and despite pirates and plagues and disturbances, and Indian wars, hurricanes and earthquakes, the place grew and prospered, and many beautiful homes were built, surrounded with fine gardens. We find Oglethorpe importing plants, seeds, and trees for the colony of bankrupts, and great hopes were laid on the cultivation of mulberry trees and silkworms, which however were not realized.

Charles S. Fisk.

THE WINDOW TO THE EAST.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

It looks so pretty this morning that I will tell you about it. The house fronts the south and every afternoon the sun smiles through the south window clear over to my window in the east, which has basked in the gladsome rays of the morning sun for three hours already, and it has received that perhaps some one else may be benefited by a description of it.

In the first place the fitting up of the window box was an after thought and was made up of left over plants from other places, and we did not expect much of it. Our box is twelve inches wide, ten inches deep and three feet long. It sits in a zinc pan one inch larger all around and which has a hole at each of the two front corners for drainage. These are closed with corks when not opened to let out surplus water. The soil is very light and loose to prevent packing or heaviness, as after the days grow dark the earth has a tendency to stay too wet.

In the back of the box, run lightly up on stout threads, I have a smilax, and an asparagus tenuissimus both of which have been long time friends. They look pretty and do not shade the other plants. I have asparagus plumosus in each end of the box and a two year old plant of A. Sprengerii sprawled out along the front. I cut from these plants all winter. In fact find it impossible to get along without them for greenery. My favorite Abretile Eclipse mingles its variegated foliage with the Sprengerii and covers all deficiencies in front. A young plant of Dracena Indivisa is in the center, an artillery plant on each side of that, a couple of lemon verbenas for fragrance (a weakness of mine), then on the right three begonias; Monsieur DeLesseps, President Carnot and Manicata aurea. On the left are four fancy leaved geraniums: Happy Thought, dark green leaves, with deep yellow center; Mrs. Parker, bordered with white; Bismarck, light bronze with heavy dark tone, and the beautiful ivy-leaved Duchess of Edinburg, and my box is full. It is beautiful too, and the prettiest part of the garden is the fact that it does not have to depend upon blossoms for its beauty, although my President Carnot will not fail to hang its beautiful coral pendants of flowers all through its side of the box; and Mons. De Lesseps, though shyer of its bloom' will wake to life later The plants are showered every day with a syringe and they will be a delight to us when our blooming plants want to rest. - Ina May Hays.

SOME IMPRESSIONS OF 1901.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

Japanese Morning Glories are better planted some little distance from the house. The furzyleaved plants all, more or less, attract caterpillars, and the Japanese Imperials are sure to be infested with them. Therefore other vines are better suited to the piazza or front entrance. This is not only one of the fresh impressions of the summer just past, but will be a lasting remembrance. These beautiful annual vines will, in summers yet to come, have some conspicuous position just a little way from where the family may pass to and fro or sit on summer evenings. Chinese Morning Glories are not so liable to attacks of caterpillars. The dark, shiny green foliage and the purplish, funnel-shaped blossoms are singularly like the Yam or Sweet Potato, therefore it will never be a popular vine in Southern gardens.

The most unique and beautiful vine that was grown in the Crescent City gardens in 1901, is the Japanese Actinidia polygama or "Silver-Sweet." The bright green leaves are tipped with silvery white, and at all times the vine is as beautiful

as if covered with flowers. The silvertipped leaves grow along lithe, graceful branches, and the cream-colored flowers, borne in the axils of the leaves, are not showy, but delightfully perfumed. It is hardy and free here, and has been universally adopted.

The Hibiscus versicolor, called in New Orleans the "Confederate Rose," is one of the showiest of the class. Kindred of the Cotton, which is of the Mallow class, the flowers of this parti-colored Hibiscus change from cream and canary to pink and deep rose-color, all the shades conspicuous at one time. Cotton blooms change in a day from creamy white to purplish pink.

The "Confederate Rose" is not surpassed among flowering shrubs for attractive qualities. "Confederate Lily," so called, is Crinum ornatum, and every passing year creates fresh impressions of its beauty as an out-door decorative plant. The long, strap-like leaves are bright and shining in light green, and endure Southern winters as evergreens. The large Lily-like blooms are white with a broad band of rose-color down each petal. They are produced continuously through the summer and fall. The bulbs attain gigantic sizes, and probably no other bulbs are sold by weight and not by

numbers. From one to ten-pound bulbs are sold; one is sufficient for small gardens; two for those of largest size.

"Confederate Jasmine" (Rhyncospermum Jasminoides) has no equal for Southern gardens. It is a hardy evergreen in the latitude of New Orleans. As a tub plant for the hot house, where the climate forbids out door culture, it is a free and hardy hard-wood vine that may be pruned into bush form, blooming from February till Easter. Botany tells us that milk-exuding plants are poisonous unless the flowers are compound. "Confederate Jasmine" is a milk-exuding flower that is not compound. This fact is worth observing in a flower so attractive and exquisitely sweet, blooming where children have free access to the plants.

The Willow-Leaf Lima Bean, although one of the most prolific of all bean vines in the vegetable garden, producing delicious beans, is yet highly ornamental in narrow willow-like foliage and racemes of cream-colored flowers.

The Strawberry-Pepper deserves the notice given it in New Orleans, where it grows in flower

gardens. The pods are never green, but ivory white when first formed, deepening to buff, orange and finally to brilliant orange-scarlet, and all the tints will be on the plant, as well as the starry-white blossoms, at one time. One, two or three are enough of them for the flower frieze around or across the garden. At a little distance the Strawberry or Celestial Pepper has the effect of an Hibiscus in bloom. The full grown orange-scarlet pods are about the size of Strawberries, shouldered and tapering to a point like them.

Bird's-Eye Cayenne Pepper has pods the size of a Sweet Pea seed. The plant grows in neat, trim, little tree form; the foliage is fine and dense and the starry-white flowers sprinkle the plant all over, like snow. The pods turn to brilliant scarlet and hang on for months. It is adopted among flowers of culture, blooming and bearing in the open border through the summer and in windows during the winter. This Bird's-Eye Pepper will be covered with white flowers and bright red peppers the year round, if taken indoors before frost. It is an annual in that it comes from seed, blooms, bears and runs its course in one summer if left to



ACTINIDIA POLYGAMA,

face cold weather, but is an ever-bearing perennial if kept under cover during the winter.

The "Glory of Mexico," "Rosa Montana" or Antigonon leptopus, is the color of a red-meat watermelon, and one of the grandest of all autumn blooming vines.

Mrs. G. T. Drennan.

"HE GIVETH HIS BELOVED SLEEP."

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)
Dear Earth is now asleep; the winds
Have hushed their lullaby, the snow,
A feathery coverlet, is spread above
The form whose heart-throbs faint disturb
The surface not. But hush! she moves
And seems about to wake once more,
But watchful Mother Nature hastes
To draw it gently back, for sleep
The young Earth needs and rest.
That when the Sun, her Lord, returns,
Her work she may renew and smile
With bud and grain, with flower and fruit—
Her mission too, and his.

Dame Durden.

PLANS FOR OUR SUMMER GARDEN.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

Do not wait until it is time to plant your garden before you begin to plan it. Many fail to have good results for the very reason that they plant their gardens regardless of system. Plan first what you would like to do, then carefully consider whether you will be able to succeed with so elaborate a plan if you have any doubts modify your plan, making a simpler one.

We must give the catalogues a thorough study so that we may know what plants we want for the places we have for them. Those who have large yards can have an unlimited variety, but we who have small gardens must make every foot tell. I should advise planting standard sorts, leaving the novelties which are always highly advertised. When we plant the standard sorts we are absolutely sure of blossoms.

One of the plants which will give the most flowers with least care is the Nasturtium. These plants are excellent for covering fences, old stumps, etc. They will climb on strings and completely cover low buildings. The coloring of

the Nasturtium is exceedingly rich and tropical, the colors extending through all tints and shades of red and orange. The soil should be rather poor to secure best and most flowers.

Salvias are excellent bloomers, and form pretty compact plants; three or four of them make a beautiful bright spot upon the lawn. They begin to blossom when very small, and bloom continuously. The scarlet variety is the most popular, but the white is pretty. A bed of scarlet Salvia bordered with blue Ageratum is very attractive. These plants must be started in boxes in the window and transplanted. Calliopsis is one of our best yellow flowers. It is very pretty when planted in masses, and combines with nearly all other flowers. Last summer I had such beautiful Balsams. They come in all colors and shades, and the double ones are so very double.

The single Petunia is a very fine bloomer and requires absolutely no care after setting the plants out. Give them a bed by themselves as they do not combine well with other flowers.

Sweet Alyssum and Candytuft are two of the best plants for edging beds and borders. Blue Ageratum is also good for bordering purposes and is excellent for cutting.

Pansies are always so very beautiful. They require rich soil, plenty of water and partial shade.

Asters are our best and most beautiful fall flowers. They come in a great variety of colors, the pure white, pale pink, and lavender being exceptionally beautiful. Some are as beautiful and nearly as large as Chrysanthemums. For sweetness I know of nothing that compares with Mignonette and Heliotrope. Zinnias are rather stiff but yet with me they are great favorites.

Dahlias require a good deal of room, and a good deal of water, then they will give flowers in such quantities, that we can supply our friends' wants as well as our own, and like many other plants the more flowers you cut the more you may cut.

Sweet Peas are favorites with everybody. These do best when grown in trenches and should be sown very early. Cut the blossoms every day so that no seed pods will form and they will bloom more freely and for a longer time. In selecting your annuals do not get more than you are able to take good care of, as one small, well kept bed is better than many neglected ones.

Ethelyn.

THE CHINESE YAM.

The Chinese Yam, or Cinnamon Vine, (Dioscorea batatas,) is one of the prettiest climbers we have, and it is surprising that it is not more generally cultivated. The dark green, glossy, heart-shaped or halberd-shaped leaves make the vine very ornamental, and the small white flowers, which grow in racemes like those of the Madeira Vine, have a



pleasant, cinnamonlike fragrance. The Yam dies down at the coming of winter and does not start very early in the spring, though

when planted in a sunny location there is a difference in this respect, but after it does start it makes an exceedingly rapid growth. Last spring a vine was known, by actual measurement, to make

a growth of two feet in a little more than thirty-six hours. The vines sometimes reach a height of thirty feet, but it is advisable to nip off the tips when a proper height is obtained and thus cause them to branch out. This will not affect the blooming of the vines and it will be possible to reach the flowers. After a few year's growth the Yam will cover a large trellis thickly. Little tubers are borne in the axils of the leaves, and these, planted, will produce the second year the large or full-grown Yams. These little tubers can be kept in dry sand through the winter until time to plant in the spring.

When the Chinese Yam was introduced into the

United States from China, forty years or more ago, it was actually thought by some that it would drive the potato out of the country, and even make the wheat-growers tremble. It has not yet, however, become a staple article of food, and is not likely to do so, its sole value with us being as an ornamental vine. The tubers grow from two to three feet long, and of large size, sometimes weighing several pounds. V They seem to keep growing down deeper and deeper in the ground and it is exceedingly difficult to dig them. They are brittle andthe top of the tuber generally breaks off, leaving the main part of the root in the ground. To get it out requires the earth to be removed as if one were digging a trench. A subscriber recently asked how the tubers could be obtained, and how prepared for food. It is said that they are grown in the tropics for food, but we have never known of their being used to any extent for that purpose in this country. We have met only one person who has tasted the Yams cooked, and he says he did not find them tempting enough to induce him to try them a second time. They could probably be prepared for the table the same as potatoes, if one desired

The Yam is perfectly hardy here in Rochester and will certainly prove satisfactory as an ornamental vine to all who try it. The tubers can be obtained at a low price from most seedsmen.

to try the experiment, but the tubers obtained of

the seedsmen and florists would scarcely be large

enough to cook.

Florence Beckwith.

NASTURTIUMS.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

The nasturtium is one of our most beautiful and satisfactory annuals, and why it is not cultivated more extensively is a question that cannot be readily answered by those who have grown the plant and become familiar with its many excellent qualities. Some persons object to it on account of its strong, pungent odor, but surely one can forgive it this one small imperfection when we consider how easily it may be grown, how readily it adapts itself to color schemes and how bright and genial the glowing colors are.

The brilliant yellows, oranges, and scarlets are all grand for adding warmth and color to sombre backgrounds. Even the gladiolus and canna are made envious by some of the burning hues of the nasturtium. And for those who object to bright colors there are pale, subdued shades of lemon and cream which cannot fail to please the most fastidious. Every year there are extensive improvements made in the nasturtium family, and one begins to wonder what more can possibly be done toward perfecting it.

The dwarf varieties are very satisfactory for growing in a circular, mound-like bed. By choosing strongly contrasting varieties, both in foliage and flower, some very satisfactory color effects may be secured. It may require more than a



year's work to bring about what you want, but a sufficient amount of experimenting will tell. Even though most of the colors are so decidedly brilliant, none are exactly inharmonious among themselves, so one need not worry a great deal for fear of securing a jumbled, discordant mass.

The climbing nasturtium is one of our most satisfactory flowering vines. The plantlets make a sure, steady growth and are good for concealing defective spots in buildings or for shading windows or porches. Its only rival among vines of its class, is the morning-glory, and when the two are grown together, an odd but pleasing effect is secured. A pretty arrangement of vines was once secured by planting yellow nasturtiums and purple morning-glories together. The colors were in harmony and the contrasting foliage quite satisfactory. When nasturtiums are used for training over the sides of buildings, etc., have them two or three inches apart in the row. At the North, do not plant them much before the middle of May, because they freeze very easily and the slightest touch of frost will wilt them to the ground. Be on hand with newspapers or blankets to throw over the plants when it seems likely to freeze. It is often a good plan to start the seed in the house, about the last of April, encourage into stocky growth and set out of doors when danger of frost is past. Dwarf nasturtiums should be planted a foot apart, perhaps more. Plant three or four seeds in a hill and cover one inch deep.

When up, thin out and transplant, leaving only one in a hill. Keep the ground well cultivated; have it mellow and open and free of weeds. Water, given in good quantities, will be much appreciated, especially during the hottest weather. A thick mulch of lawn clippings, placed around the plants, will also prove beneficial.

The golden rule for success with nasturtiums seems to be this: Plant the seed in rather poor soil. Do not add manure or other fertilizing elements, as these usually cause the strength of a plant to go into foliage instead of flowers, and such a procedure is generally not desirable. Poor, sandy soil will grow the nasturtium very well, but preference is given to mellow loam from the vegetable garden, with nothing else added.

Nasturtium blossoms are just the thing to brighten up dark hall-ways or corners. They are also good to place on the dining table, provided that too large a quantity is not used. A half a dozen or so is generally enough. Do not make the mistake of putting them in highly colored dishes.

Benj. B. Keeck.

THE WATER LILY AND ITS CULTURE.

(Article No. 1. Wr'tten for Vick's Family Magazine.)

The Water Lily has never been a sensational flower in America, but in recent years its popularity has spread very rapidly. A new friend is made of everyone who becomes acquainted with its beauty and extreme simplicity of culture. During the great drouth last summer, when all kinds of bedding plants were struggling in the dust for existence, the Water Lilies seemed to sparkle more brightly than usual. Whether wet or dry they can always be relied upon as a certainty. This, with their great beauty, profusion of bloom, rich colors and ease of culture, makes a combination that the flower-loving public cannot fail to appreciate.

A great many people this year will undertake to cultivate them for the first time. In the months that follow, we will endeavor to study their nature, habits and culture in such a way, that anyone, however ignorant of their culture, may grow them successfully in their own homes.

There is but little to do in the Water Garden in February, except to plan—which, by the way, is

the greater part of success in any enterprise. One might at this time decide where he is going to grow his Water Lilies. Bor-

ders of lakes,



slow streams, and ponds are their natural homes; tubs and cement tanks their artificial ones. Choose the site for your tank, and lay it off if one is to be made this spring. Do not fall into the too common error of making a tank too small. The larger it is, the better you will be satisfied in the future. Look about for a natural piece of water in which to plant. Probably there is an unsightly mud-hole or swamp on your place that has always been a nuisance, which might, with a little work, be transformed into a water garden. In selecting and making a water garden large or small, success depends largely upon adhering to these three conditions-still warm water, sunshine, and rich soil. Having selected the place for them under these conditions and familiarized one's self with the different varieties in the magazines and catalogues, we are ready for practical operations when the warm days of spring come. Geo. B. Moulder.



THE CARE OF PLANTS IN THE WINDOW.

In winter, as at no other time, we appreciate the flowers in the window. They seem to suddenly take on a charm and beauty we have not seen in them before, and we feel that home would not be what it ought to be without them. And this is as it ought to be. Flowers should be considered one of the necessary things of life.

A window full of flowers in winter is as good as a course of lectures to him who keeps his eyes and heart open. They are all the time preaching little, silent, eloquent, sermons to us. They concentrate our attention on a bit of summer brightness and we come to feel that if a fragment of the great whole can afford so much pleasure, we have but feebly appreciated the wealth of beauty and brightness God gives to us yearly.

Make friends with your plants. Don't be content with simply knowing their names and just as little about their requirements as will enable you to keep them alive. Be on intimate terms with them. That is the only way to enjoy them.

In order to grow plants well in the house they must have plenty of light. Unless this can be given they will be spindling and weak, and there will be few, if any, flowers, and these will be inferior.

The best exposure is a southern one; the next best an eastern one. A south window is the one in which to grow Geraniums, Lantanas, Heliotropes, and all plants fond of much sunshine, while the eastern one is better for Begonias, Fuchsias, and such plants as care more for the sun in the early part of the day, than they do after its rays become more intense. A west window gives too much heat unless shaded considerably, but is better than no window at all, and if you have no other to give your plants, don't go without them. A curtain of thin muslin will temper the heat greatly, and vines can be trained over the glass in such a way as to break the fierceness of the sun's rays. A north window is not suited to the needs of flowering plants, but some which are grown solely for foliage can be kept there. Ferns, Palms, Aspidistra, Ficus, and Lycopodiums will do quite as well there as in a window exposed to the sun. English Ivy can be trained about it. Tradescantia in baskets can be hung up in it, and thus it can be made beautiful without flowers if you have a love for "green things growing."

One often sees weak, scraggly plants in the sitting-room windows. They seem to have grown too rapidly to be healthy. Two things combine to bring this about; lack of fresh air and too much heat.

If you want fine plants, you must give them plenty of air. They breathe, as you do, and without fresh air they pine and become diseased, the same as you would under similar conditions. Always have your window arranged in such a manner that it can be lowered at the top, thus letting a stream of pure air blow in over the plants. Opening doors from the hall, or some adjoining room into which air can be admitted from without, will let in a supply which your plants will

fully appreciate. Never let a stream of cold air blow directly on them, however. Aim to have the cold air mix with the warm air of the room before it reaches them.

The air of the living-room is generally kept too warm and dry for plants. About seventy degrees during the day time and fifteen degrees less at night would suit such plants as one finds in ordinary collections. Aim to keep the temperature as even as possible. Too great heat forces a weak growth, and has a tendency to blast any buds that may form.

In a room where the air is warm and dry the red spider will do deadly work. In order to keep him at bay the plants must be given as much moisture as possible. Keep a vessel of water on the stove, to evaporate. Shower the plants daily. If the pots are used without saucers, the table on which they stand, or the shelves, can be covered with an inch of sand which can be kept in place by tacking cleats along the edge of the stand. The sand will take up and retain the water which runs through the pots, and thus a steady moisture will be given off from it, for there will be constant evaporation taking place. Keep the air of the room in which plants are kept as moist as possible, if you want to grow strong, healthy plants.

Showering daily helps to keep the foliage clean, and unless the dust, which settles on the plants when sweeping the room, is cleared away, the pores of the leaves become clogged and the plant finds it difficult to breathe, for the pores of the leaves are really the lungs of the plant.

In a moist atmosphere many plants can be grown which would die in a dry air, and all plants do so much better where there is plenty of moisture in suspension that the amateur who wants his plants to do their best will aim to supply it. It has often been observed that fine plants are frequently found growing in the kitchen, while those in the parlor are sickly. The explanation of this is: The kitchen air is moist because of the cooking, washing and other work of that kind going on there, while the parlor air has all the moisture extracted from it by intense stove and furnace heat which there is no moisture to modify.

Stir the soil in the pots at least once a week. An old fork is a good tool to do this with. This allows the air to penetrate to the roots, and keeps weeds from getting a start. Keep all dead leaves picked off and remove fading flowers. It is a good plan to cover your plants with a thin sheet, or a newspaper, when sweeping. Another good plan is to remove them to the kitchen at least once in two weeks, and give them a thorough washing. This helps to keep down insects and prevents them from becoming incrusted with dust.

Provide yourself with one of the brass syringes or elastic plant sprinklers for sale by dealers in florist's goods. With one of these you can throw a strong stream or a spray of water over and among your plants, and apply it effectively, which you cannot do if you depend on a whisk-broom for a sprinkler. A "sprinkler" is not what you need, but something that has force enough to take the water in

all directions and in such quantities and with such volume as the case may require.

Turn your plants at least twice a week so that they will get the sun and light on all sides. This prevents their becoming drawn to one side, as they will be sure to do if not turned frequently. Do not neglect to do this if you want goodshaped specimens. Be sure to give all the light possible; don't shut it out from the window by curtains. Let your plants furnish the beauty for the window. Some are afraid of letting in the sunshine upon their plants because it will fade the carpet. If you care more for your carpet than you do for your flowers, give them to someone who is willing to do the fair thing by them, and concentrate your energies on the protection of the precious carpet, but don't attempt to compromise matters between the two, for this will result in failure so far as the plants are concerned.

THE NEW YEAR.

BY H. S. A.

Fast in the midnight over the snow,—
Through the blinding whirl of the driving snow,
The New Year rides apace.
Full strong and lithe of limb is he,
With a heart that braveth cheerily
The dangers of the race.

Before his chariot wheels we bow;
"O, New Year! we, allegiance now
With our petitions bring:—
The hopes and joys of life bestow;
Despair and suffering, want and woe
Remove, as thou art king.

For thou art king; to do thy will,
The measure of thy fame to fill.
Thy humble subjects we;
Frota all oppression, wrong, and strife,—
Those heavy taxes on our life,—
Thy kingly word will free.

Here on this parchment are the laws
That banish from thy realm the cause
Of every discontent.
But set thy royal name and seal,
And all thy people lift to weal;
Sign! sign! with no dissent!

So will we own thy sovereign sway, Will service render, fealty pay, And bless thee all thy days. So hail thee, coming, as a friend, And mourn thy exit at the end With loyal love and praise."

The fair young year our homage took
With wise unfathomable look
From eyes serene and kind.
He strewed the largest of his hand
In happy thoughts o'er all the land,
But Magna Charta left unsigned.

SPECIAL 60 DAY OFFER-This magazine a whole year for only 25 cents.



(Concluded from January number.)

The next morning I awoke with a start. The hermit was carrying armfuls of straw to my horse. The sun was high in the heavens, the door of the dugout was thrown back and a flood of yellow sunlight streamed in. I arose and went out. Not a cloud was to be seen, not a breath of air was stirring. My horse greeted me with a neigh of gladness. In places the snow was piled high as my head; in others the wind had swept the ground perfectly bare. The hermit came up and greeted me kindly, and hoped I had had a good night's rest. I thanked him and assured him that I never slept better in my life. We then went in and made a hearty breakfast of the dried antelope. My host seemed less reserved this morning, and I ventured to ask him if he would not tell me something about his past life. A shadow flitted across his face, he laid his bony hand upon my shoulder and said:

"My young friend, the sorrows of my life have been many, but it would do me no good to recount them, nor you to hear them. Some time in the future, should you come this way again, I may tell you all. This much only can I say now-I have never committed a crime in my life. This life is of my own choosing. I am an Englishman who came to this country more than thirty years ago. Many sorrows came to me in the old country -sorrows of love and disappointment bitter enough to crush a heart of iron. I came to America to lose myself in these wilds. My race is nearly run. My bones will bleach upon these plains, and my sorrows will then end. You, my friend, are young. It would be cruel to burden you with my sorrows. I desire to live apart from humanity, and I beg of you in return for my poor hospitality to tell no one of this night's experience. I beseech you, do not divulge to your employer or companions the place of my abode. Should misfortune ever again come to you, as it did last night, and should I be able to minister to your needs, you will be welcomed, should you find the way to my cell again."

Marveling much at his strange statements, I promised to carry out implicitly all nis wishes. The forenoon was passing away, and I felt that I must be on my homeward way. I took from my purse a twenty-dollar gold piece and pressed the hermit to accept it as a partial return for his kindness, but he refused, saying he had more money than he needed. He asked me to write my name on a card and leave it with him, and I did so. I thanked him again for his kindness, wrung his bony hand, then mounted and rode away. I turned my horse's head due to the north, judging that since we had wandered to the left of our true course the night before, I would, by traveling north, be likely to strike the ranch or some part of the country familiar to me. Our progress was slow. The ground was broken and uneven, and often we plunged into drifts of snow up to my horse's head before we knew it. In the afternoon I came upon country with which I was familiar, and by hard riding reached the ranch about seven

My employer was becoming uneasy about

me, and it was a great relief to him when I rode up safe and sound and placed the money in his hands. I explained my delay by saying that I had returned to Abilene as soon as the storm came up. He complimented me on my presence of mind, and said my life would not have been worth a copper had I attempted to reach home that night.

For the next eight or ten months I was very busy, and had no opportunity to revisit the hermit. I kept a sharp lookout for his dugout while herding cattle south of the ranch, but never saw it. I was generally with some of my companions, and remembering his admonition to come alone in case I wished to visit him, I made no effort to see him.

The following spring our ranch headquarters were moved 150 miles north, on the line of the Fort Worth and Denver railroad. This carried me clear out of the range of the hermit, and I had no chance to see him for years.

Two weeks ago I had occasion to visit Abilene, Texas, on business of my own. It happened that I had three or four days to while away, so I decided to make an effort to find my hermit friend. It was now six and a half years since that snowy night. I procured a good horse at the same stable and started early one day for the dugout. The country was much more thickly settled now. I traveled all day, following my former route as best I could. When about thirty miles from town I turned off to the left, as I had done before. The country here was inclosed in an immense pasture, and still unsettled. I now examined the country carefully. I rode back and forth across the plains eight or ten miles, from east to west, gradually working north. I scanned every mesquite thicket for some familiar sign. Night came on. I dismounted, took off my saddle and tethered my horse where he could crop the succulent grass. I ate part of my lunch, then lit a cigar and lay down with my saddle for a pillow and smoked while I looked up in the starlit sky. When my cigar went out I went to sleep. Next morning I continued the search. As I gradually worked north the level plains merged into hilly, uneven country, and mesquite thickets were more numerous. With redoubled care I scanned every mound, every thicket. I felt sure I would recognize the dugout and its surroundings despite any changes six years

About noon I was in the act of dismounting to rest in the shade of a small cedar while my horse grazed, when something familiar met my eyes. Surely that thick tangle of mesquite on my right there was the identical place where the hermit had hitched my horse that stormy night. walked toward it on foot. It was unquestionably the place. My eyes traveled south of this thicket about twenty yards. Was that the same mound? It was surely lower now, scarcely above the surface of the earth. As I walked toward it my heart thumped against my ribs. There at the south end was the door. It was falling to pieces with decay. I dropped on my knees and peered in through a hole in the door. No sound came to my ears. I tapped on the door, calling to the hermit. The door fell in as I touched it, and an owl flew out, brushing my face with its wing. I drew back with a start. Then putting aside childish fears I went in. Everything was covered with dirt and mold. The stove had fallen to pieces. The rifle lay on the dirt floor, half covered with sand. The books over against the wall were caked with dirt where muddy water had run down the wall on them. On the bed of straw, the same bed I had slept on that night long ago, lay the skeleton of the hermit. He had evidently been dead more than a year. At the side of the bed was a stool, and on it a book weighed down with the same Colt's revolvers. Shuddering, I drew near the stool, thinking there might be a message. I lifted up the revolvers and the book, and there lay a paper old and mildewed, which appeared to be a fly leaf out of the book. It was written with red ink. I picked it up and carried it to the light. The writing was faded and straggling, but I managed to make out the following: To the man who discovers this wretched

abode: I pray you heed this request of a dying man. This, the winter of 1894, I feel that my hour is near at hand. I pray you to send my bones to 70 Fleet street, London, with this letter. In God's name fail not. In the middle of this cell, under the stove, will be found a purse of gold. You who read this, I beg you reward yourself well out of this purse, and send what remains to the address I gave. Neglect not, I pray you, this last request of a dying man. Should Mr. -, the young man from the Half Circle Six ranch, who stayed with me that winter night, see this, I give him my dying blessing. I give and bequeath to him my books, my revolvers and my rifle. Let my sorrows die with me. Let my secrets die with me. Across the water they will know all. Fail not in any of these things, I pray you. Let my name be NAMELESS.

That was all. His secret had indeed died with him. I put the writing back where I found it, and walked out, faint of heart. I mounted my horse and rode back to town. I saw an officer that night and told him the story of my discovery and all I knew about the strange man. Early next morning we went out with a wagon and brought in the skeleton and all the things mentioned in the writing. The purse under the stove contained more than \$2,000 in American and English coin. We kept out enough to pay express charges. The remainder we placed in a strong box with the skeleton and the letter and shipped them to the London address. The books, rifle and revolvers I kept in accordance with his wishes.

As I stand at the window of my hotel now, the east-bound Texas and Pacific train, bearing the remains, is pulling out of town, and I wonder sadly what was the life secret of the man, and what sort of people will receive the strong box in that far land across the sea.

SPECIAL 60 DAY OFFER-Vick's Family Magazine a whole year for only 25 cents.



THE SNOW-FILLED NEST.

It swings upon the leafless tree,
By stormy winds blown to and fro;
Deserted, lonely, sad to see,
And full of cruel snow.

In summer's noon the leaves above
Made dewy shelter from the heat;
The nest was full of life and love;
Ah, life and love are sweet!

All, all are gone! I know not where; And still upon the cold, gray tree, Lonely, and tossed by every air, That snow-filled nest I see.

Rose Terry Cooke.

February seems the hardest month in the year to provide for an agreeable and varied table. Lettuce is about the only green vegetable within reach, and the old, old story of beets, turnips, carrots and onions is told over and over again.

Beets boiled, baked in a dish with butter and boiled and diced for salad, seem all of the possibilities of this stolid vegetable. The turnip however, is more susceptible of treatment, and yields better results. When used as an accompaniment of roast mutton, turnips are best plain-boiled and well-seasoned with butter, pepper and salt. With boiled mutton it is sometimes an agreeable change to boil turnips and carrots separately, dice them, and then serve them mixed, covered with a white sauce. A more elaborate way of serving these homely vegetables is said to come from Russia. They are first peeled, then boiled whole. The center is scooped out, mashed, seasoned well and mixed with cream, and replaced in the scooped turnips. They are then placed in a dish and browned in the oven. The result is very palatable. A more hearty stuffing may be made of any left over meat or poultry chopped fine, well seasoned, a dash of onion and parsley added and the whole covered with a slice of turnip, or a little mashed. These stuffed turnips are then set in a pan, and have poured over them a little soup stock, or some gravy. They are served very hot, with the gravy poured over them. Turnips should always be cooked slowly in salted water. Boiling hard and fast is apt to make them tough and stringy, and strong in taste.

Eggs are becoming more plentiful in this month, and those of us who have to rely on the "strictly fresh table eggs," bought at the market, are not disappointed more than four times to the dozen. There are few articles of food capable of so many forms of treatment, and few which are so palatable when well cooked, and so unappetizing when poorly cooked. You may ring the changes on them every day in the week and still find a new way to serve them for Sunday morning breakfast. As they are particularly rich in protein, that material in food which goes to repair and rebuild the tissues of the body, eggs are among our most

valuable food products. Combined with food containing flour, sugar, and fat, they are able to meet every requirement of the body, and repair, renew, and stimulate it.

Roast or shirred eggs are prepared by dropping in a cup with a bit of butter and pepper and salt, and then baking in the oven; this is a common way of serving them. So is scrambling, and frying or poaching. But the two best ways, best because most easily digested, are the two ways we most seldom find them satisfactorily cooked. We refer to serving them in omelets, or soft boiled. A perfectly cooked soft boiled egg should have the white soft, tender and creamy, and the yolk just slightly thickened Two minutes in boiling should accomplish this, and the egg should be constantly stirred with a spoon to insure its being cooked to the same degree throughout. In the case of omelets the variety is almost without limit, and it is the most difficult of all egg dishes to prepare. In the first place it should be well shaped, high and thick in the center and pointed at the ends. Then it must be soft inside, delicately browned, and perfectly seasoned. The pan in which the omelet is cooked is one great factor in its manufacture. It should be kept for omelets alone, and be perfectly smooth. Each time before making the omelet the pan should be well rubbed with salt to insure its smoothness. Sometimes the eggs are beaten too much; this will make the omelet tough. A famous French cook-and French omelets are noted the world over-says, "Just twelve beats, no more, no less." This breaks the eggs but does not imprison too much air in them. Small omelets are always better than large ones, and three eggs should insure good results. To this number of eggs add half a teaspoonful of salt, a dash of pepper, and half a teaspoonful of butter crumbled in bits. In almost all cooking it is best to add butter, bit by bit, as this insures its thorough mixing, and leaves no oily lines in your result.

Have your pan good and hot, put in a little butter and let it run over the surface of the pan, but not brown. Then pour in your eggs. Do not hesitate to break with a knife or fork the cooked surface of the omelet, so that the uncooked portion may run through and cook also. While the egg is still soft, roll the omelet carefully to the center, and let the egg set. When it is the right color place your serving dish over the pan and let the omelet drop in by turning the pan. Press in shape, cutting off or folding under the ends if necessary. A few sprigs of parsley will garnish the dish and it should be served immediately. Fried oysters and omelets will not bear waiting. This of course is a breakfast omelet, and for that meal may have chopped ham added, or better yet, a cold sausage with the skin removed and chopped fine.

For lunch or supper there are many ingredients which may be added. Peas or tomatoes previously cooked, may be spread within the omelet before it is turned. Parsley finely chopped may be strewn

over the top, or a sauce of tomatoes, mushrooms, or rich brown gravy may be poured around the omelet when it is ready to serve.

Then there are all the sweet omelets when whites and yolks are beaten separately, sugar added to the yolks, and pepper omitted. Sweet sauces and preserves are sometimes added, and the omelet now appears for dessert.

Many children prefer hard boiled eggs to having them prepared in any other fashion. We know a nursery where a favorite supper is golden cream toast, which is made as follows: Toast several slices of bread, butter well, and moisten with hot water. Take four or six hard boiled eggs, chop the whites very fine, and press the yolks through a sieve or a potato ricer. Make a white sauce of one tablespoonful each of flour and butter, rubbed and cooked together, to which is added a cup of milk, or half a cup of milk and half a cup of cream. When this sauce is thick and smooth, season well with pepper and salt, add the chopped whites and pour over the toast. Then sprinkle evenly over the whole the crumbled yolks, and serve very hot.

In preparing sauces, gravies, and even thick soups, like bean and pea, they are much improved by being beaten. Even the cereals may be lightened in the same way, and there is a very simple implement which may be found to do this. It is a form of egg beater, made of good stout wires bound together into a handle with finer wires. It somewhat resembles in shape a wire spoon, comes in several sizes, and costs from fifteen cents up to a quarter. We have even seen it successfully used in bread mixing, and when once tried becomes quite invaluable in the kitchen.

There are many housekeepers, who, to save themselves trouble write out a menu card to last for a week, and run this through the winter. One would not blame any man, under such circumstances, who should refer constantly to the "way mother did," or make uncomplimentary remarks on the housekeeping. We call the woman who runs such a domestic mill a bad housekeeper, even if each dish is properly prepared. The system needs variety as much as the mind, and a certain unexpectedness gives a fillip to the appetite which is most desirable. A prettily arranged table, even if it does take a few more steps, and well cooked food, are necessary to every family, and the housemother will find that if she relaxes at meal times and makes a point of enjoying her meals, they will do her more good than scamping the time for them so as to get through the next "chore.

They talk about a "woman's sphere"
As though it had a limit;
There's not a spot on sea or shore,
In sanctum, office, shop or store—
There ain't no nothin' any more
Without a woman in it.

Boston Herald.

SPECIAL 60 DAY OFFER.—Vick's Family Magazine a whole year for 25 cents.

DO NOT NEGLECT YOUR KIDNEYS.

Because if Kidney Trouble is Permitted to Continue, Fatal Results are Sure to Follow.

Weak and unhealthy kidneys are responsible for more sickness and suffering than any other disease, therefore, when through neglect or other causes, kidney trouble is permitted to continue, fatal results are sure to follow.

We often see a relative, a friend, or an acquaintance apparently well, but in a few days we may be grieved to learn of their severe illness, or sudden death, caused by that fatal type of kidney trouble—Bright's Disease.

DOCTOR AFTER DOCTOR.

"None of Them Suspected that My Kldneys Were the Cause of My Trouble."

now well, thanks to Swamp-Root, and weigh 148 pounds, and am keeping house for my husband and brother, on a farm. Swamp-Root cured me after the doctors had failed to do me a particle of good.

Gertrude Warner Scott

Swamp-Root will do just as much for any rife whose back is too weak to perform her ary work, who is tired and overwrought, who



How to Find Out It used to be considered that only urinary and bladder troubles were to be traced to the kidneys, but now modern science proves that nearly all diseases have their beginning in the disorder of these most important organs. The kidneys filter and purify the blood—that is their work. Therefore when your kidneys are weak or out of order you can understand how quickly your entire body is affected, and how every organ seems to fail to do its duty. If you are sick or "feel badly," begin taking the world-tamous new discovery, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, because as soon as your kidneys are well they will help all the other organs to health. A trial will convince anyone.

Women suffer untold misery because the nature of their disease is not always.

Ir. Klimer's Swamp-Root, because as soon as your kidneys are well they will help all the other organs to health. A trial will convince anyone.

Women suffer untold misery because the nature of their disease is not always correctly understood; in most cases when doctoring, they are led to believe that womb trouble or female weakness of some sort is responsible for their many ills, when in fact disordered kidneys are the chief cause of their distressing troubles. Nervousness, headache, puffy or dark circles under the eyes, a dragging pain or dull ache in the back, weakness or bearing down sensation, profuse or scanty supply of urine, frequent desire to pass it night or day, with scalding or burning sensation,—these are all unmistakable signs of kidney and bladder trouble.

It there is any doubt in your mind as to your condition, take from your urine on rising about four ounces, place it in a glass or bottle and let it stand twenty-four hours. If on examination it is milky or cloudy, if there is a brick-dust settling, or if small particles float about in it, your kidneys are in need of immediate attention. When the heart is acting badly, have you ever thought that it may be due to kidney trouble, as is often the case?

Other symptons showing that you need Swamp-Root are sleeplessness, dizziness, sallow, unhealthy complexion, plenty of ambition but no strength.

Swamp-Root is pleasant to take and is used in the leading hospitals, recommended by physicians in their private practice, and is taken by doctors themselves, because they recognize in Swamp-Root the greatest and most successful remedy.

because they recognize in Swamp-Root the greatest and most successful remedy.

If you are already convinced that Swamp-Root is what you need, you can purchase the regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles at the drug stores everywhere. Remember the name, Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y.

Sample Bottle Sent Absolutely Free by Mail.

EDITORIAL NOTICE-Swamp-Root, the great Kidney, Liver and Bladder remedy, is so remarkably successful that a special arrangement has been made by which all of our readers who have not already tried it may have a sample bottle sent absolutely free by mail. Also a book telling all about kidney and bladder troubles and containing many of the thousands upon thousands of testimonial letters received from men and woman cured by Swamp-Root. In writing, be sure and mention reading this generous offer in Vick's Family Magazine, when sending your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

THE MOTHERS' MEETING

By Victoria Wellman

"God could not be everywhere-so He made Mothers."

"HEARTS AND HANDS."

"If I had known in the morning
How wearily all the day,
The words unkind
Would trouble my mind
I said when you went away,
I had been more careful, darling,
Nor given you needless pain;
But we vex our own
With look and tone
We might never take back again.

We have careful thoughts for the stranger,
And smiles for the sometime guest,
But oft for our own
The bitter tone,
Though we love 'our own' the best.
Ah, lips with the curve impatient,
Ah, brow with that look of scorn,
'Twere a cruel fate
Were the night too late
To undo the work of the morn!"—Selected.

Do these lines touch your hearts, my readers? To me they often have come with a calming power unequaled by many a more celebrated poet's ef-Sometimes—there are so fusions. often times-when mothers feel too busy to read, or too distracted to care dear old friend, when a frenzied irritation sways one's moral sense until all just ideas of circumstances are lost, and life seems a complete failure, and understood, when a rush of hot words rises to lips we know were meant to give tender kisses and words of comfort, and anger shrills past recognition a voice meant to sing love's own Home," then, oddly enough some such little verse may soothe quickly and surely into the true self again.

It seems to be expected that at home one may be rude or angry any number of times and neither feel nor express regretful shame. False pride prevents apologies due to outsiders, sometimes, but, alas! the unspoken apologies of home are unspoken because not even considered. An air of constraint, a sulky spell—"it wears off." Does it not spoil the true home spirit more or less? Do not men roam the streets because of it and women grow morose and children lose their best development and acquire low ideals?

The little verse in our January number-did you read it? patience in the garden of thy soul." It means me; does it mean you? There is a verse in our Bible referring his gift to the altar and remembers a grudge against his brother, to leave there his gift and go first and make peace with his brother and then return and offer his gift. . It reads easily. Our secret souls approve the doctrine, yet, some who could face too hard ordeals and shrink from the attempt.

added to ill health, only that woman know so many smile above heartgive endlessly, and deserve my rever- each.

ence. Such mothers seem half-divine. Set into some homely sphere, they shine out like stars illuminating dreary night, pointing the way to wanderers. We wish some artist soul would catch the soul ideal of these lives, with glowing brush, paint its beauty for a blinded world which always needs interpreters.

GREAT MEN'S MOTHERS.

The list of great men whose mothers, perhaps unconsciously, stamped the large impress of genius on their sleeping souls is past belief longand impressive. February reminds us of two whom America in honoring never forgets that each gave full credit to his mother's influence. The constant inner wish finds expression; to long for and dream of desirable beauties of mind and form fixes upon the child an for even a Bible verse, or to see a endowment of good. By her will to do, to be, to endure, the expectant mother blesses and forms her child. Later it will be by her influence in words, example, government, that she one's self utterly misplaced or mis- moulds and shapes. O mothers, you can be artists, sculptors of souls—or mere seekers of material gain, mere Marthas, mere driftwood!

Then what is the key to the millennium? Motherhood-sweet, wise, low sweet music of "Home, Sweet trained. Let us take courage and help our growing generation on one step nearer to this hope of the suffering world, which alone can purify gross minds, overcome heredity, and make home a foretaste of Heaven. Our faults may seem too great, our mistakes past remedy; but hope and will can do miracles. "What is home without a (good) mother?" Shall all responsibility rest on the mother? No! She craves, she needs the loving support and agreement of her husband. The ideal home has need of a good father who can be a counselor or sympathizer at need as well as the generous hard-toiling bread-winner which, though his great special care (because Providence designed a nest and protection for motherbirds) is not all he is capable of showing of fatherhood. The sweetness, the love of some men in their home circle shining through to this, commanding him who brings all their rougher masculine ways, is a precious fact to muse upon.

THE BOY-AND HIS MOTHER.

Does your boy believe you were born to drudge for others? Is he selfish, untruthful, profane, impure? Can you not plant something against lions find patience and peace-making the stormy days of manhood which shall anchor his soul to good, pure ideals? I'd like to hear from mothers When a burden is very great and is of boys, and among other things calculated to act as magnets, let me inwho "leans hard" can bear it without dorse that splendid magazine, "The growing bitter. All honor to women! American Boy.". Your boy can get it by securing only four subscriptions aches, speak gently when tried, for- to Vick's Family Magazine at 25 cents



OUR BRIGHT EYED CIRCLE.

February is a short month but is full of events. You will soon be sending and receiving "sweet things" in valentines (dear me! I fear I shall get none—and they do look as lovely as ever to me. I have not a single hope unless some of my Bright Eyes remember me. A letter would be a nice valentine for me) and the postman will rejoice when February 14 is gone. Then Lincoln's Birthday and Washington's Birthday come along—how remarkable a record for our shortest month. Two Americans we are proudest of were born in February.

Plucky "Abe" Lincoln! What boy reader has as hard a time as he had to earn a schooling? A great and loving heart was his—and how he loved that sweet singing mother of his. Noble George Washington, whose true idea of honor rested on a hatred of lies; little boy as he was and inclined to mischief at times, he was no coward, as some children are when they fear punishment. "I cannot tell a lie," I like that brave speech. And he, too, was so fond of his mother.

It is said American men are better to their wives and mothers than men of any other nationality. Perhaps the examples of Lincoln, Washington, Garfield, and McKinley have had some effect on them. Every great person influences by his example many whom he never has seen.

The thought which always comes to me is of the boyhood of Washington and Lincoln. I try to imagine them climbing trees, fishing, playing ball. It may be, too, that some one who reads this will grow up to be a more wonderful man than even these. Living in the East, as I have for years, I have seen some of the famous spots sacred to the memory of George Washington. On the Hudson at Newburgh is one of his old headquarters kept as when he was alive and full of relics of old times. At Morristown, New Jersey, the Washington Society is a fad and everyone, at least on Washington's Birthday, calls and writes his name in the visitors's book and wanders through the quaint rooms. It gives one a queer feeling to sit in chairs used by Lafayette and Washington! The old spinnet looks little like our grand pianos. The china and the kitchen things took my eye, but everyone of you boys would like to see the cannon, flags and swords.

"Fort Nonsense," so called because not needed, was built on the highest point, where Washington could command the landscape and watch for enemies. It was bought and marked by a monument in later years. We resided a stone's throw from it and often sat resting, when gathering flowers, where once a great general and his brave soldiers camped so many years before. Ask your mother about Valley Forge or read in some history of the terrible, deadly winter, harder far than battles.

A certain little girl and boy are fond of celebrations and their mother is apt to encourage them in this. Once they had the 'most splendidest' party! It was on Washington's Birthday, of course. We will call the girl, Tottie; well, she had a Valentine party up in her own room (which was prettily furnished in blue, white and gold) and a ''spread'' down in the dining room to which the boys came and stayed to play games. The postman brought a heap of valentines; the prizes for games were little 'heart'' bangles and cupids, and the cakes were decorated to represent valentines. So our boy (we will call him Frank) must have a party too. A George Washington Birthday party it was! All went well and Frank was delighted when ten boys, with wigs finely powdered, and old time hats and costumes, swords, etc., marched up to the music of fifes and drum. Frank was also dressed as they were. And the girls! Such giggling you never heard, and such fun over long trains!

And the supper! Why, the boys acted like the starved heroes of Valley Forge never did; and they would have relished hard tack. Here was a huge cake on which appeared a lifelike portrait of George Washington, and flags along the sides; as one boy said, "George looked good enough to eat," and so it proved as the icings were harmless. There were round cakes iced to represent soldiers, Martha Washington, flags, etc., and the first prize for games went to Jimmie Jones; it was a large profile head of Washington, cut out, baked, and iced so it looked like a painting. Jimmie Jones was very proud but alas! he had a fight over it next day when Bub Wilson told him to give him a bite of it or he'd lick him black and blue, and the cake was broken! Bub Wilson was not invited, because he was a rough, swearing, thieving boy, always teasing and hurting little folks. Of course such boys would not fit into a Washington's Birthday party. -And worse, Bub told lies and he was not ashamed! George Washington would never have been what he was, had he lied as Bub did. We want moregreat Americans who "cannot tell a lie.''

A Little Boy's Wish.

When winter comes, the people say, "Oh, shut the door!" and when, As sometimes happens, I forget,
They call me back again.

It takes till summer time to learn; And then things change about; And "Leave it open!" is the cry When I go in or out.

I try to be a pleasant boy,
And do just as I ought,
But when things are so hard to learn,
I wish they might stay taught!

Henrietta R. Elliott.

BOYS! See Here.

Would you like to receive the best boys paper in the world for a whole year? Get only four subscriptions to Vick's Family Magazine at our special 60 day rate of 25 cents and send us the names and money and we will have the American Boy sent to you a whole year. It is a splendid magazine for boys and the regular price is \$1.00 a year. Write all names and addresses plainly and give your name as the agent, also state that you want the American Boy as your premium.

"Y00000000 !"

Suppose, when you've been bad some day And up to bed are sent away From mother and the rest—Suppose you ask, "Who has been bad?" And then you'll hear what's true; For the wind will moan in its ruefulest tone: "Yoooooooo! Yoooooooo! Yooooooo!

Eugene Field.



Only a Name

No Money Is Wanted

Please show this to some person who needs one of these books. Ask him to send me his name.

I will mail the book, and with it an order on your nearest druggist for six bottles Dr. Shoop's Restorative. I will tell the druggist to let the sick one take it for a month. If satisfied then, pay \$5.50. If not, I will pay the druggist myself.

I mean that exactly. I do not always succeed, for sometimes there is a cause, like cancer, which medicine cannot cure. But most of these diseases result from weakened inside nerves; those nerves which alone make every vital organ do its duty. I have spent a lifetime in learning how to strengthen them; my Restorative always does that. I have furnished it to 555,000 people on terms like the above, and 39 out of each 40 have paid for it—paid because they were cured.

There are 39 chances in 40 that I can cure you or your friend. I will pay all the cost if I don't. Won't you tell this to some sick person who wants to be well?

Simply state which book you want, and address Dr. Shoop, Box 424, Racine, Wis.

Book No. 1 on Dyspepsia. Book No. 2 on the Heart. Book No. 3 on the Kidneys. Book No. 4 for Women. Book No. 5 for Men. (sealed) Book No. 6 on Rheumatism.

Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At all druggists.



TRANSPLANTING.

The time to begin to plant is approaching, and in the South and some of the far western states this work can be done at almost any time during the winter. One thing that I have always noticed in my experience is, that there is danger of planting in soil that is too wet. This is generally more frequent in spring-time than in the fall, because the earth is then saturated by the winter rains. I like early spring planting but I would rather plant a little late, than have the ground too wet. Dust is far better than mud, in which to set trees, but soil that is simply moist is in the best condition for receiving the roots of trees or plants of any kind.

I like the roots cut back to where they are perfectly sound and in healthy condition, rather than have them long and feeble at the ends. It is at their ends that the first rootlets will start. If those parts are feeble, the new growth will be feeble, and it will be slow in starting. This is why we often see that clipping off the ends of long roots seems to have an invigorating effect upon trees, and upon small seedlings, such as tomatoes and other small plants as well. There is greater strength and vitality as we approach the collar of the plant or young tree.

Another important point is that the soil should be firmly packed about the roots. It should be loose and finely pulverized, of course, but pressed, tamped and sometimes pounded tight and firm. This is to bring it in close contact with the roots. If it is not so, then the roots cannot absorb the moisture from the soil readily.

Dipping the entire roots in thin mud just before planting is an excellent plan. It causes the soil to stick to them more closely than if it is not done. Really this is the best thing I ever learned about transplanting.

WINTER APPLES.

What cheer is there that is half so good, In the snowy waste of a winter's night, As a dancing fire of hickory wood, And an easy chair in its mellow light. And a pearmain apple, ruddy and sleek, Or a jenetting with a freckled cheek? A russet apple is fair to view, With a tawny tint like an autumn leaf, The warmth of a ripen'd corn-field's hue, Or golden hint of a harvest sheaf; And the wholesome breath of the finished year Is held in a winesap's blooming sphere. They bring you a thought of the orchard trees, In blossomy April and leafy June, And the sleepy droning of bumble-bees In the lazy light of the afternoon, And tangled clover and bobolinks, Tiger lilies and garden pinks. If you've somewhere left, with its gable wide, A farm-house set in an orchard old, You'll see it all in the winter tide, At sight of a pippin's green and gold, Or a pearmain apple, ruddy and sleek, Or a jenetting with freckled cheek.

Hattie Whitney.

Food Value of Fruit.

In recent years the growing of fruits has assumed great commercial importance in many regions of the United States, especially in the South and on the Pacific coast. The amount of fruit consumed in the average household has undoubtedly increased with the greater production and facilities for shipping and marketing.

Many stations have reported analyses of fruits and made extended studies of the different methods of growing fruit trees, their soil requirements, enemies, etc.

The stone fruits constitute an important group, and have been studied for a number of years by the California and Oregon stations. Fresh peaches, apricots, cherries, prunes, and plums are general favorites, while enormous quantities of these fruits are canned, dried or preserved in some way It is interesting to compare the composition of these fruits, fresh and dried, with each other and with some of the staple articles of diet.

It must not be forgotten, however, that fruits are valuable for other reasons than the nutrient which they furnish. They contain acids and other bodies which are believed by physiologists to have a beneficial effect on the system and, doubtless, very often stimulate the appetite for other food. They are also useful in counteracting a tendency to constipation, Another pointand one entirely apart from food value-should not be overlooked. That is, fruits add very materially to the attractiveness of the diet. It is not easy to estimate their value from this standpoint, since often the appearance of food has a value which cannot be measured in dollars and cents .- The Farmer.

ANSWER TO AN INQUIRY.

New York City, Dec. 30, 1901.

As I am intending to move onto my farm in Central New Hampshire, I would like to ask a few questions of you that may help me a great deal. What cherry do you think would do well in that section of the country. Also, what peach and pear; also what size cherry tree would you advise to plant? How long before cherry trees begin to DE LANCY KING. bear?

The best early cherry for central New Hampshire is the Richmond. The next in season, that I would recommend, is the Montmorency and after that the English Morello. All these varieties are tart in flavor and the trees are hardy.

Peaches rarely withstand the winters of that region safely, and I would not advise planting them there. Among the very good pears for family use are Bartlett and Seckel and they also stand well in the market.

Trees of both cherry and pear should be two years old when planted, and the former will begin to bear at about five years from setting, while the pears begin at about three years, if they are dwarfs, or twice that age if they are standards.

H. E. VANDEMAN.



CROUP Thousands of children saved to the state of the saved to the saved the saved to the saved to

"A land flowing with milk and honey."

CALIFORNIA.

IS THE MECCA.

Seekers after rest and recreation in a bracing climate, amid enchanting scenery surrounded by fruits and flowers, are going to California this winter in greater numbers than ever before.

The way to go is by the

NEW YORK CENTRAL LINES.

The new trains of this system give a fine service, fast time, and afford every convenience and luxury. Inquire of ticket agents regarding the new facilities.

Four-Track Series No. 5, "America's Winter Re-sorts," sent free on receipt of a two-cent stamp, by George H. Daniels, General Passenger Agent, Grand Central Station, New York.

Vick's Family Magazine a Whole Year for Only 25 cts. If Ordered Before March 15.

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You will never find another like it-We offer you Green's Fruit Grower, the best, handsomest and most helpful publication of its kind (recently improved) also several other good journals at a price far below what you can obtain them for elsewhere. Here is the list—Vick's Family Magazine one year; Green's Fruit Grower one year; The American Poultry Advocate one year; Up-to Date Farming and Gardening 3 mos; New Ideas 3 mos; A total value of \$1.55 for only 55 cents. Fill in the following; blank plainly and mail to us with 55 cents at once.

Vice Publishing Co. blank plainly and mail to us with 55 cents at once.

Vick Publishing Co.

Enclosed find 55 cents for one year's subscription to Vick's Family Magazine, Green's Fruit Grower, American Poultry Advo-

cate and 3 months subscription to Up-to-Date Farming and Gardening and New Ideas as per your offer.

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V I C K'S **FAMILY MAGAZINE**

February 1902

Published by VICK PUBLISHING COMPANY.

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DANSVILLE, N. Y. 62 STATE ST. ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Entered as second-class matter at the Dansville, N. Y., Post Office.

Blessed is the man who considereth the poor pedestrian and scatters ashes, sand, or sawdust on the icy walk. May his days be long to set a good example in this land of ice and snow.

I could hardly get along without your magazine.—Mrs. I. A. McC., Lincoln, Neb.

Your magazine is very useful to every one on a farm.—Mrs. H. A. B., Porter's Corners, N. Y.

Have you ever noticed the early change in color in the willows? Long before other plants show any signs of growth, the red and yellow tints of the willows become much brighter, telling us that spring is coming.

Vick's is a splendid little magazine.—Mrs. F. E. B., Covington, Ind.

We congratulate you on your improvement of the magazine.— J. G. D., Granite Falls, Minn.

If you have not an asparagus bed, plan to plant one the coming spring. It is one of the earliest and most delicious garden vegetables, is not difficult to plant or cultivate, and can be depended on for a crop every year. A bed properly planted and cared for will last for years.

The magazine is very much improved this year; the reading matter is most excellent in all departments.—Mrs. J. M. B., Salem, Ohio.

Rural Free Delivery has caused the discontinuance of more than 2,000 postoffices throughout the country, and, in consequence, the addresses of many subscribers have been changed. If your address has been changed, kindly let us know at once, giving the old as well as the new one. This will save much trouble and annoyance.

Vick's Family Magazine should be in every home. It is getting better all the time. We are glad to have it come.—T. T. T.,
Thorsby, Ala.

From six bulbs of Paper White Narcissus we have eleven stalks of bloom which are filling the room with fragrance. They will last two weeks or more and we think them a good return for the small amount of money invested. They were grown in water and blossomed in about three weeks' time after planting.

Have been reading your magazine for nearly a year and enjoy it very much.—Mrs. R. G. C., Philo, Ill.

The earliest flower to bloom in this locality, coming sometimes in January, but usually in February, is Symplocarpus foetida, or Skunk's Cabbage. As the common name indicates, the plant has not a very pleasant odor, but the blossom has beauties of its own in the exquisite shadings of color in the spathe which covers the true flowers. If you have never examined the plant carefully, it will pay you to do so through all its stages, from its first appearance to the ripened fruit.

I thought to do without Vick's this year, but the combinations were so grand I could not resist.—Mrs. M. B. R., Crowley, Oregon.

Some of the early vegetables, like lettuce and radishes, can be grown in a hot bed and ready for use long before the garden can be planted. It is not much trouble to make a hot bed and very little expense. Look out for a good place to locate one, get some sash to cover it, send for some seeds, and let the house-mother have something fresh for the table early in the spring. It will help her solve the problem of "what in the world to have for dinner that will taste good." Three meals a day for 365 days means 1,095 meals to plan for and cook. Do you wonder that the house-mother sometimes sighs as she wonders what to get for the next one? Plenty of fresh vegetables will make her work easier.

I received the sample copy of your magazine the other day and am very much pleased with it. Enclosed find subscription. —R. E. C., Rome, Ga.

It is most fortunate for a farmer when he has a faculty for using tools. He can not only make many repairs which are needed around the buildings and on the implements used in farm work, but he can construct new buildings and machinery and invent labor-saving devices which lead to great saving of time and money. Apparently not all men have this faculty or, perhaps, it has not been developed. It is a good idea for a farmer to have a repair shop furnished with modern tools where boys of the family can spend some of their leisure time. We believe boys have a natural liking for handling tools and that they will acquire skill in using them if given a chance. A good set of tools is a paying investment for a farmer who has boys whom he would like to keep on the old home farm.

I am very much pleased with the magazine and hope to take it all the years of my life, be they few or many.—Mrs. A. S., Delaware, Ohio.

Zero weather is apt to make one wish he could flit with the birds to the sunny Southland, or hibernate, like the bears, through the long and dreary winter. It might be hard to make a choice, were the chance offered one, but the birds must be very tired after their long flight, and, to one wearied with the world's work and longing for rest we believe hibernating would appeal most strongly. To be sure the bears are said to come out very lean in the spring, but to those burdened with superfluous flesh that would be a "consummation devoutly to be wished." We believe the hibernating chance, if offered, would have the most acceptances.

I like the magazine very much; it is a great deal better than when I first began to take it.—Mrs. K. B., Spotswood, N. J.

CANADIAN CENSUS CONTEST.

We have just received the anno	oun	cem	ent	of th	ne p	opul:	ation of
Canada, which is 5,369,666. Thos	e v	vinn	ing t	he i	maiı	a pri	zes are:
Miss Louis S. Smith, Ann Arbor,	Mi	ch	-	-			\$5,000
W. T. Smith, Bellfontaine, O.					-		5,000
D. N. Combs, Manito, Ill	+0			-		-	2,000
H. Munger, Detroit, Mich			11,000		-	-	2,000
W. F. Weston, Detroit, Mich.	•			**		-	2,000
Harry Rhodes, Dresserville, N. Y		-			- 00		.700

There were 543 prizes in all amounting to a total of \$15,000, all of which have been paid.

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At druggists.

The Five-Cent packet is enough for an ordinary occasion. The family bottle, 60 cents, contains a supply for a year.

Winter Trees.

Across the sky, across the snow, The sober rooks are winging slow. Grey roses in the rush-fringed pool, And winter trees are beautiful

The west is now a garden-close. Pink roses and a golden rose, With amber and with tender green, To let the throbbing stars between.

Against that world of roses stand-These are the woods of Fairyland-Poplar and oak and elm to make A gold brake and a rosy brake.

Instead of silky leaves of spring. The stars now make their garnishing For May roses and April white; The snow has lit them all the night

The red sun hangs his lantern red Between the black boughs overhead, The evening clothes them with his mist Half sapphire and half amethyst.

The dawn roses are scattered here As 'twere a rose enpalier Whose happy boughs have borne for fruit Red roses all from head to foot.

Even the lamp that men have set To light the way for traveling feet Caught in the dark tree glitters bright As chrysoprase and chrysolite.

Down the long road's perspective go The dark trees in a double row, Spangled with lamplight gold and cool And winter trees are beautiful. --Katharine Tyman, in the London Specta

COUNT WALDEMAR.

(Continued from January Number)

BY STANLEY LITTELL.

Finding myself thus constrained to play the ungrateful part of a fifth person, I rose presently, and stepped out on to the verandah which surrounded the house.

I have nothing to say against the climate of Hyeres at such times as the mistral is not blowing. On this December night the air was as mild as that of an English June. There were roses in bloom in the garden; a faint breeze was stirring among the olivetrees on the slopes; the moon made a silvery pathway across the sea beneath, softening all the landscape, and casting such a fairy-like glamor over the arid rocks of the Hyeres Islands that their ancient titles of the Iles d'Or no longer seemed inappropriate. Somebody had left a cane arm chair out on the verandah. I took possession of it, lighted a cigar, and was soon lost in those pathetic memories which are the peculiar property of moonlight and middle age.

How long I had been thus pleasantly occupied I cannot say, when an increased volume of sound proceeding from within attracted my attention, and made me aware that Count Waldemar was delivering one of his harangues. This was followed by some barely audible sentences enunciated in Everard's slow and somewhat drawling accents, and then I heard the count's voice saying distinctly and rather sulkily,-

"Sir, you make a mistake; the Germans are a most order-loving people. That we love Prussia I do not say-That we love Prussia I do not say—
no; but we shall remain loyal to the emperor because he is the natural head unbrellas.etc. No needle or thread required, sample and circulars, loc. JOS. GUGERMOS, Waconia, Minn.

of the Reich; and it is only very ignorant and foolish persons who maintain the contrary.'

"Thanks. I fully appreciate the flattering inference. All the same, I expect to see the German republic before I die."

"Pfui!"

"Herr von Ravensburg, do you know that you are rather rude?"

"Rude? Aber! - when a man speaks to me of the German republic!"

At this juncture I judged it appropriate to appear upon the scene, after the fashion of the heathen deities of old, and to avert the impending strife.

"Are you young men aware that it is past eleven o'clock?" I asked. "If you stay here much longer, you will not only wear out Mrs. Seymour's patience, but also that of the hotelporter, who is not fond of late hours. Come let us say good-night, and be

As I marched out of the house between the two rivals, I felt that I had displayed a tact for which everybody owed me some thanks; but my selfapproval was not destined to last long. Just as we reached the limits of the small domain, Count Waldemar, who all this time had been only too evidently struggling with inward wrath stopped short drew himself up to his full height, and looking over my head at Everard, ejaculated,-

'Sir!"

"Do be quiet," I whispered entreatingly; but he never heeded me.

'Sir,'' he repeated. '"Just now you have said that I was rude. Before the ladies I could not notice your worts, but now I must ask you what you have meant."

"Exactly what I said," answered Everard curtly.

"In Germany we consider such speeches an insult."

"Do you? Well, really I can't help it. If a man dislikes being called a boor, he ought not to behave boorishly."

Count Waldemar told me afterwards that Everard had been sneering at him, and trying to provoke him all the evening through; otherwise he would not have lost his temper even after so direct an affront as this. As it was, his self-control deserted him entirely. He took two strides towards the offender, caught him up in his arms like a baby, held him for an in-

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mighty heave, tossed him clear over sorry to see him there, for I had We sell our machine made, standard, clump of cactus-bushes.

I am sorry to say that, shocked and indignant though I was at this deed of violence upon the person of a friend and a fellow-countryman, the first emotion that took possession of me was one of most unseasonable mirth; and this, gaining strength by reason of my efforts to conquer it, soon mastered me so completely that I was fain to sit me down upon the grass and hold my sides, while Count Waldemar, all his ill-humor dispersed in that one explosion of wrath, woke the echoes with peal after peal of uproarious laughter, and from the cactus-bushes below arose the maledictions of the outraged Everard.

To a man smarting both mentally and physically, as Everard must have been doing, such conduct as this may under any circumstances he would have been very angry; he was simply furious now, and satisfaction he vowed he would have.

How we got back to the hotel I can hardly say. I dare say we were a sufficiently comical trio-Count Waldemar still shaking with laughter, Everard bristling with thorns like a hedgehog, and insisting with vain volubilits upon the necessity for mutual apologies. All I know is that, when I went to bed that night, I closed my play the absurd, not to say hazardous, part of second in a duel.

It was Count Waldemar who, despite my entreaties and protestations, would have it that I must act as his friend in the carrying out of this piece of murderous folly. He was very sorry to put me to any inconvenience, he said; but since he was not upon speaking terms with any other man in Hyeres, he could not help himself; and when I declared that no duel should take place at all with my consent, he simply answered that that did not concern him, he being the receiver, not the giver of the challenge. He added, as a matter of detail, that he had no intention of apologizing for the hasty act into which his temper had betrayed him on the previous evening, and that he did not in the least regret it.

"I have seen very well, last night, that Mrs. Seymour is more fond of him as of me," he sighed; "but when she shall hear how I have sitted him in the meedst of those thorns, then must she certainly laugh. Yes, I shall have my revenche!"

And with this unworthy sentiment he lounged out into the sunshine, while I went up-stairs to see what I could do with the other fire-eater.

I found Everard deep in conversation with a certain M. de Beaulieu, a young Parisian, who was reluctantly spending a few weeks in the south in order to soothe the last moments of Cards. Wright & Soc. Business & Professional Cards. sation with a certain M. de Beaulieu,

the low bank by which we were stand- guessed the cause of his presence even ing, into a conveniently adjacent before Everard, rising from his chair, said.-

> "If you come from Herr von Ravensburg, perhaps I had better leave you with M. de Beaulieu, who has kindly consented to act for me in this matter.

"Nonsense, my dear fellow! pray don't stir," I answered, determined to make light of the whole business if I could. "I certainly do come from Count Waldemar-that is, in a sort of way, you know. I mean, I did not tell him I was coming; and my only object in doing so is to suggest that you and he should make up your difference in a friendly way."

"I don't quite see now that is to be managed," observed Everard quietly.

"Now, Everard, be reasonable. For goodness' sake don't let us have a row. You see, the fact is you were both in the wrong; you provoked him, well have appeared as inexcusable as and he forgot himself; each of you it was exasperating. I suppose that will surely admit that much. Very well you have only to acknowledge

> "Mr. Clifford, what would you do if a fellow twice your size chucked you into a small plantation of prickly pears?"

> "Well, I can't exactly say upon the spur of the moment; but one thing is certain-no Englishman is expected to fight duels in these days."

"No man who prefers to take a licking is ever expected to fight. For my own part, I have lived so much abroad eyes upon the prospect of having to that I have become a little foreign in my habits; and as I am a particularly good shot, and a very fair swordsman, and have already been out three times, I see no reason why I should not prevent your German friend from insulting strangers for the future."

'Why, you bloodthirsty young ruffian, do you mean to say you would kill the man?"

(Continued in March Number)

To anyone sending 10cts, silver or stamps before March 15, 1902, for one of our unparalleled Bargain Collections of Flower or Vegetableseeds, containing 5 pkts, we will give One Large Pkt, Free, containing over 50 varieties of choice annuals, Or send 15c for 1 collection, 5 pkts Flower seeds, annuals, and 1 collection, 5 pkts, croire Vegetable seeds, 10 pkts, in all, and we will send the Surprise pkt, of annuals and also a pkt. containing 15 choice old fashioned pereminals like our grandmothers used to have. Send at once for bargain sheet offers to—

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How many frozen combs can you, count thus far?

or twice a day.

Watch out that the hens do not eat what few eggs are laid.

A pan of skim milk occasionally will do much to make the hens cackle.

If you feed corn it will easily double its value to feed it hot from the oven.

When you discover a frozen comb, the very worst thing you can do is to take it into the house.

It is a pretty well established fact that hens will lay more eggs with no a better prospect of success. rooster about to bother them.

Did you get nipped on the "Red alone. Let that console you.

Don't defer the afternoon mash too late. Remember the days are short, and the hens go to roost early.

The average farmer can now find plenty of time to make some substantial coops for the old hens and chicks next spring.

If you can't afford a bone cutter, then get a hammer and smash some green bones fine. The hens need it in their business.

If the litter in your scratching pen has become damp and dirty, shovel it to corner the egg market and raise the out and begin again with a bushel or price clear out of sight, but you can two of clover chaff.

The man who can give his chickens access to a big steaming manure pile is in luck. It will keep them busy when all else fails.

There is no royal road to egg getting. If you secure any just now it must be done by the most constant corralled, and afterwards dried in the and painstaking effort.

There is seed enough in a bushel of clover chaff to keep the hens scratching hoppers, so the only question to decide all day, and they will eat every particle of leaf. Give them plenty.

Place the nests in a dark corner, and fasten them up above the floor. They will keep cleaner, and the layers the busiest, and best ones, and get will not be disturbed so much.

The habit of feather eating is oftener than not indulged in because the fowls trouble to do this than to take the have nothing else to do. Another argument in favor of keeping them busy.

Don't imagine that you can coddle up your hens enough on Sunday to last all the week. It is every day in the week business to secure eggs in winter.

Beware of that blizzardinctious fortnight that of late years has struck this section of country along in February. Don't you remember how the wind blew harder each day, and the mercury plugged zero every night for a fortnight? Better get ready for it beforehand, and if it fails to come, you will lose nothing.

The same pair of geese will mate year after year, hence, if you under-Give them warm water to drink once take to pair either of them with a strange bird you may gather a lot of unfertile eggs.

Do you chop up beets fine, and feed the hens daily? You'll be surprised at the avidity with which they put it out of sight. Hens crave green stuff at this season.

Better blow in a gallon of oil in practicing up with your incubator. Then you can set your eggs when the time comes, with more confidence, and

Don't be discouraged if you don't get a chick from your first attempt Albumen'' fake? Well, you were not with an incubator. There is many a slip between the "set" and the "pip," and you will learn by experience.

Place a droppings board under your perches, and box up the space underneath, and sift a lot of coal ashes in the box thus formed. The fowls will take great comfort wallowing in it.

Boiled potatoes, mixed with wheat bran is an excellent mash for cold weather. Season it with salt and pepper if you choose, as it will be still better for the hens. But don't overdo it.

The western pork packers may figure snap your fingers at them if you are attending to your hens as you should.

Now comes a new poultry bait in the form of dried grasshoppers from Nebraska. It is claimed they are the product of the "hopper-dozer" by which millions of grasshoppers are sun, and put up in packages. We all know that poultry thrives on grassis whether the product as now offered is genuine.

If you intend to raise chicks, begin to watch your fowls and see which are ready to separate them from the rest, for breeders. It is a little more eggs from the entire flock, but you will, in a year or two improve your flock so you won't know them. A little care of this sort will bring large returns for the labor expended.

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Now look over your conveniences for poultry keeping, carefully, and wherever you see a place where the conditions might be improved, chalk it down, and make the improvements before another winter.

When the ground is covered with snow, though the sun is shining, it is better to keep the hens inside. They will, if allowed to go out, squat down in the first ray of sunshine, and sit there long after the sun has passed on. Always figure that a hen does not know any more than the law allows.

One occasionally hears or reads of some smart individual who claims to be able to tell by the appearance of an egg whether it will hatch out a male or a female chick. They are generally poor in pocket notwithstanding that there is a fortune awaiting the man who can do that thing unerringly.

When your pullets go blind, and their heads swell, and there is yellow matter near the corner of the eyes, you can safely assume that they have roup. It is one of the greatest scourges that can attack a flock. The cause is usually attributable to unclean surroundings, which may have existed for some time, but a slight cold will render the fowl more sensitive to these unhealthful conditions, and this foul disease breaks out. It is very contagious, and promp action alone can save the entire flock. The sick fowls should be separated immediately from the rest of the flock, and the sanitary conditions of the place should improve forthwith. Add a few drops of kerosene oil to the drinking water of the sick fowls, and feed nourishing foods. A still better way, will be to chop the heads off the sick ones, and bury them out of sight, unless they are valuable fowls which you are anxious to save. If that be the case, then you should have given them more cleanly quarters, for roup seldom appears where the premises are kept clean, warm and tidy. When you find that you really have a case of roup on your hands, take the fowls all out of the house, clean it thoroughly and then disinfect it by burning sulphur and carbolic acid in it for an hour or two. Scatter slacked lime about the house and yard, and it will be all the better if a little turpentine and carbolic acid be added to this. If you want to doctor the sick hens, mix equal parts of sulphur, alum, and magnesia, and dust their nostrils, eyes and throat, with a small powder gun, if you have one. If the nostrils are clogged they should be kept open by injecting a little crude petroleum, in them. It is a bad thing to handle, as you will be convinced before you are through. Keep the premises in good order, and you are not likely to be troubled with roup.

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Flowers, How to Grow Them By Eben E. Rexford. This neat little book of 175 pages, $4\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 inches, is devoted mainly to the care of indoor flowers and plants. Starting with information as to the best soil for pot plants, the author touches on every point necessary for their successful cultivation, names the best varieties, and gives advice about insecticides, watering, table decorations, etc. A few chapters are devoted to the lawn, the out-door garden and the hardy border. The information given is of the most practical kind, making it a valuable work, especially to the amateur in plant culture. The Penn Publishing Company, Philadelphia, Pa. Price 50 cents, postpaid.

Prize Gardening. How to derive Profit, Pleasure, Health from the garden. This unique book summarizes the most useful experiences of five thousand gardeners all over America, who kept a daily record of their methods and results for a whole season in competition for the prizes offered by the American Agriculturist. Being the actual experience of the successful prize winners in this garden contest, the book is full of practical suggestions, some of which cannot fail to meet the needs of every gardener in the land. The book is so well edited that it reads like an interesting story. Women gardeners will be particularly interested in the accounts of gardens planned, worked, and managed by those of their own sex. Of the fortunate one hundred winning prizes, twenty-seven were women, which fact may encourage others to euter the field. book is illustrated with many charts, sketches, etc., from original photographs, and we heartily commend it to all interested in a good garden. Orange Judd Company, New York. Price \$1.00, postpaid.

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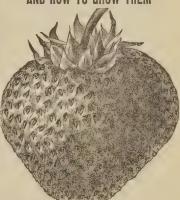
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E. D. Strong, Box 2437, SanFrancisco, Cal. Journal.

Horse Nature Like Human Nature.

I know an old mare who is decidedly shy and viciously tricky for her age. She seems to dread close companionship and too much caressing from human hands. Yet the other morning, after a vain attempt to smooth her long, lean nose, I moved away and leaned against the stall, my hand outstretched upon the manger rail. And what do you think she did? She came shyly after me presently, and touched my fingers lightly with her nose. I maintained a discreet passiveness and she grew bolder, mouthing along my hand with her satin soft nostrils in a delicate, sensitive caress, light as the touch of human motherhood. And then she put her tongue, exquisitely soft and warm it was, and gently lapped my hand.

Oh, you old rogue! When I remember that winter day when you gave me a hard spill on the frozen earth, and the other day when you viciously bit through the flesh of my arm, what wonder that I am amazed at such gentleness! Yet I've no doubt horse nature is very like human nature, in that there is the good and the not so good in all its composition, and we love the one by learning to condone the other. - C. Grace Kephart, in the Horse Review.

I heard one of the best McKinley stories the other day that I ever listened to. When the late President and party went West not many months before he was shot, Mrs. McKinley, it will be remembered, went, too. While talking with Mr. Scott one day, the man whose firm built the Oregon, Mrs. McKinlev said:

"Oh! do you play cribbage, Mr. Scott?"

"Yes," was the shipbuilder's answer. "Well, so do I," said Mrs. McKinley. "I wish you would play a game with me."

"I should be delighted to do so," was the reply.

Later, as President McKinley and Mr. Scott were looking over the latter's big plant, Mrs. McKinley not being present, the President said:

"Oh! by the way, Mr. Scott, didn't I hear you and Mrs. McKinley arranging to play cribbage some time?"

'Yes," said Mr. Scott; "we are

going to play." "Well, what kind of a player are

you?" asked the President. "Oh! pretty fair, I guess; I play a

pretty good game."

"Well, so do I," said Mr. McKinley. "But, do you know, it may seem strange, but it is a fact, that I have never been able to play well enough to beat Mrs. McKinley." As he said this he looked at Mr. Scott with a significant smile. Their eyes met. It was enough. Mr. Scott understood, and it is safe to say that he did not beat Mrs. McKinley.

I doubt if a better illustration of Mr. McKinley's constant consideration for the comfort and pleasure of his invalid wife could be found. -Boston





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Garden Notes.

The Devil's Garden.

On master's ol' plantation, where I lived before de war, A field called "Devil's Garden" was De worst you ever saw.

De work right dere it was so hard We knew the Devil made it; And often found a hoof-track dere Where he had been and laid it.

When Freedom came I wanted ease;— 80 off from dere I put; But somehow every job I've tried Has showed de cloven foot.

Bandanna Ballads.

Hotbeds.

Instead of permanent hotbeds, I dig a hole in the most convenient place in my garden, fill it with manure and pack it down, then set my box without any bottom on the manure, put on some fine soil, bank up the earth around the outside, put on the sash, and my hotbed is ready. When I am through with it I take up my box and sash and put them under cover until next year. I have four such boxes about four feet square in which I start egg plant, lettuce, tomatoes, cabbage, etc. In the center of one box I usually sow a hill of cucumbers and when the glass and box are no longer needed I take them away and my cucumbers cover the ground around and bear nearly all summer. One great advantage of this bed is, when my plants grow tall enough to touch the glass I simply raise the box higher and bank up more earth outside.

The first work done for the garden commences in February as soon as the seed catalogues arrive. I make a rough plan where crops are to be grown, amount of seed and fertilizer wanted and place orders for all plants, trees and seeds. Nothing more is done until the last week in March, when the hotbed is started. I have a small one by myself. It is three by four feet, two feet deep. Bought one-eighth cord horse manure for generating the heat, making the depth of manure one and one-half feet. Over this I placed four inches of soil that had been taken up with celery the fall before, making soil fine and allowing to heat under cover of the glass for a few days. When soil had got well warmed I moistened it with luke-warm water, planted radishes, lettuce, celery and covered with one-half inch of sand, firming with a smooth board. - Prize Gardening—Orange Judd Co.

Catalogues Received.

Burpee's Farm Annua!-W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Cole's Garden Annual—Cole's Seed Store, Pella, Iowa. Everything for the Garden—Peter Henderson & Co., New York. Landreth' Seed Catalogue—D. Landreth & Sons, Phil adelphia, Pa. Garden and Floral Guide—James Vick's Sons, Rochester, N. Y. The World-Centre -McCo mick Harvesting Machine Co., Chicago, Ill. Wm. Elliott & Son's Seed Annual—54 Dey St., New York. Iowa Seed Co's 32d Annual Catalogue—Des Moines, Ia. F. B. Mills, Souvenir Edition-Rose Hill, N. Y.

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Some Interesting Winter Birds. (Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

that hop about the fields and woods in summer confuses the beginner in the study of ornithology, and he has his other so continually that he is apt to retain only a vague impression of any particular species; but in the winter months this disadvantage of numbers is removed, and the conditions are all favorable for becoming familiar with a few. Our winter birds are so friendly and lonely that they appeal friendly and lonely that they appeal to us with special emphasis. They look so cold and uncomfortable in the barren, leafless trees that we think they must be genuine objects of pity. But I doubt very much if they are such sufferers as we imagine. If they are, why don't they migrate south with the other birds where perpetual summer reigns? That is a point of personal liking. Why do we not all go south in winter to avoid the cold? Some will answer that they would if they could afford it. But not all. There are plenty who would stay north from personal choice. Although it is cold, and many of our winter days are cloudy and stormy, there is enjoyment found in sleighing, skating, tobogganing, and other sports that no amount of warm, balmy weather can quite compensate for. I think it is very much the same with the winter birds. They like the cold, the snow, and even the ice and sleet.

Did you ever see a snow-bunting plunge into a bank of snow, and wallow in the soft, flakey stuff with all the zest and energy of a canary taking its bath? Can any one doubt that the little bird enjoys this snow bath? Then did you ever see a mischievous sparrow light on a snow-laden bough of a tree, and shake it so vigorously that the birds under it were nearly buried by the avalanche of snow? The wild chirp of delight that the perpetrator of the trick gives utterance to, as he flies away, indicates genuine enjoyment of the sport. His discomforted companions undoubtedly wait for their opportunity to turn the tables on him.

The Canada nuthatch and chickadees are jumping around among the hemlocks and birches, and if you will watch them a little while you will be forced to the conclusion that they are enjoying life. They are looking for their dinner continually, when they are not hunting for their breakfast or supper; but they find intervals when they can resort to play and merriment.

Suddenly two of the nuthatches shoot downward from the peak of the hemlock, and in a most buoyant manner tumble over each other in the snow, making a great ado about noth-

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ing. Fighting? Not by any means. They are merely letting off a little The great number of song birds surplus mirth and energy which the crisp winter air imparts to them. They are just like a boy whose feelings have been pent-up all day in attention distracted from one to an- school, and who suddenly finds himself out of doors in the snow. The birds cannot throw snow-balls, but they can roll each other over in the soft banks.

> The kinglets are migratory birds; but there is scarcely a winter that one

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A trip down to the harbor, bay, or ocean just now will reveal some interesting phases of winter bird-life. The ducks, gulls, and crows are there in greater or less numbers every day. The outlook is not so inviting as in summer; but the birds are probably of a different opinion. The winter gulls are circling around over the water, and fishing energetically for their dinner. One will dive down and bring up a fish, but in the effort to carry him away to a safe place he may drop him. Instantly half a dozen gulls swoop down after the descending fish. There is a quick, sharp race between the birds and gravitation. Sometimes a lucky gull will catch the fish literally on the fly; but more often fish and gulls will go plump into the water, splashing it into a foam on all sides. This game might be called, 'Who gets the fish?'' If the fish has any particle of life left in him after this rough handling, he will seek unknown depths as fast as his fins will enable him; but if dead, one of the birds will obtain possession. The fortunate gull is then allowed to carry the booty off without interference; but if two get possession at the same moment there is apt to be a wrangle, which ends often in a third bird getting all, or each of the disputants one half.

The crows and the ducks are full of interest in their winter life. The former spend their time in searching for food, and in watching the weather. A crow never gets caught far from land by a storm. The whole flock flies inland with wild cries before the edge of the storm strikes the harbor. The ducks and geese take their icy plunge in the water every morning, and seem to have a game which consists in seeing which one can break the most thin ice in a given time. They make regular ice-breaking machines out of their bodies, and delight to crush the thin ice that is just forming on their feeding ponds. Probably this is a law of self-preservation -an open attempt to keep Nature from covering up their feeding-place



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with ice. But to an observer it looks very much as if the birds enjoyed the work or sport, even though the cold is sufficient to paralyze almost anything else living, except a duck or wild goose. —George E. Walsh.

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"Mr. Loring, the American consul, expostulated with the authorities that it would be monstrous to shoot the man for such an offense, but they paid no attention to him, so he thereupon made a formal protest in the name of the United States government against and other valuable premiums to Boys and Girls for a little work after school hours. No Money Required. Complete premium list and full particulars sent FREE. Address Secty. The B. & sailor, was in the morning brought sailor, was in the morning brought out pinioned to be shot.

> "As the English consul was preparing to hoist the Union Jack he saw the crowd in the field opposite, where the execution of the American sailor, of which he had heard, was to take place. Rushing over to the American consul, he said, 'Loring, you're not going to let them shoot that man!'

'What can I do?' he said. have protested against it. I can do no more.'

'Quick as thought the English consul shouted, 'Give me your flag!' And in a trice the stars and stripes were handed to the English representative. At once, taking his own Union Jack in his hand, he hastened across the field, elbowed his way through the crowd and soldiery, and, running up to the doomed man, he folded the American flag around him and then laid the Union Jack over it. Standing a few paces back, he faced the officers and soldiers and shouted defiantly, 'Now, shoot, if you dare, through the heart of England and America!'

"And they dared not do it, for they feared the consequences, so the man was at once released. In telling me," said Dr. Peck, "Mr. Haskins said to me, with tears streaming down his cheeks even then, 'They loosed me then, and, oh, how I longed to embrace those two flags!" "-Anglo-

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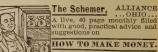
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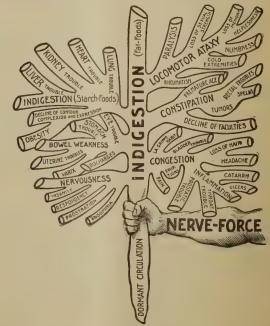




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Edible? Puffballs.

In Vick's Magazine for October, page thirteen, an editorial reads: "Don't destroy puffballs or mushrooms of any kind; leave them for people who can appreciate them." This season I found a puffball about a foot and a half long, a foot or so wide, and fourteen to sixteen inches high. In the same place-a grassy hollow near a little brook-there were five or six others not very much smaller. Do you mean to say that these could have been eaten without danger? I have read that certain puffballs are edible, but as I understand it there are puffballs and puffballs, and I should have been very slow to taste these (to me) sinister looking things. Some years ago the grade built up to make a driveway into the second story of a large basement barn-a smooth grassy slope-was all covered over with the same species, looking at a little distance as if a large wagon load of loaves of bread had been overturned there. One of them was vastly larger than the above; I could not begin to reach round it and I can reach six feet three inches Going that fall the whole length of the county, I saw many of these big puffballs on doorsteps and gateposts, evidently as curiosities, showing them to be common all over this region that year, for these big ones do not occur every season. There is a small leadcolored toadstool which the cows eat, another, bright red above and white beneath, is gnawed by mice in the woods. My horses eat a pasture mushroom and I have seen cats eat a large toadstool. All these are presumably harmless, but I am afraid of them after all. What can be done to cure me and others of this fear?

E. S. Gilbert.

The puffball described by our correspondent is doubtless the Giant puffball or Lycoperdon giganteum, which is our largest species. Its diameter is commonly eight to sixteen inches, but it sometimes attains much larger dimensions. It grows in grassy places and is found during August and September. It is not common, but owing to its large size, one is often sufficient for a meal for a number of persons. It has been recommended by some lover of this particular species of mushroom, that when a large one is found at a convenient distance from the house, only a part of it should be taken at once, the rest sliced off as needed. We have never seen this method tried, perhaps it might work all right.

Some good authorities claim that all species of puffballs are perfectly harmless. Professor Peck says that this statement should be modified by the words "so far as known." The Giant puffball is, however, harmless and when properly prepared is a delicious addition to our ordinary fare. It should only be used while the inner flesh is pure and white. When it has changed to a yellowish green or become smoky or brownish in color, it is not fit for food.

So many books on edible fungi, or mushrooms, have been published within the last few years, that it is possible for one to become so well informed on the subject as not to run much risk in eating the more common species. The Agricultural Department at Washington has published several illustrated pamphlets on the subject. which can be had on application. Professor Charles H. Peck, State Botanist of New York, published a very elaborate and valuable work, with several supplements, but we are not sure that it can now be obtained; it is possible that it can be through one's representative at Albany.

One of the best works recently published is by Professor George F. Atkinson, of Cornell University, entitled: 'Mushrooms, Edible, Poisonous, etc.' It is profusely illustrated with halftones from original photographs, and is a very reliable guide to the edible species. Price \$3.00.—F. B.

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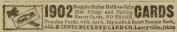
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